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THE BEQUEST OF
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RHYMED TACTICS.



NEW YORK:
D. VAN NOSTRAND, 192 BROADWAY
1862.





COL. JOHN A. GODFREY.

°
RHYMED TACTICS,

BY "GOV."

"For this relief much thanks."

NEW YORK:
D. VAN NOSTRAND, 192 BROADWAY.
1862.

John A. Godfrey

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RHYMED TACTICS.

BY GOV.

THE WRITER'S APOLOGY.

COMRADES—who like in this hard world
Some sport with toil to mingle—
To easy make the soldier's fate,
I *think* you'll like my jingle.
Camp life is dull and irksome, too,
E'en for men stout and ruddy ;
But is aught worse to intersperse
With toil than too much study ?
'Tis not for gains I've taken pains
To make this little volume,
Telling in rhymes—motions and times,
For manual and column.
Myself to please—to get release
From poring over, tactics,
I fell to work and made this book
A rhymèd book—didactic.
Perhaps the mem'ry 'twill assist
The real rules to learn ;
And then, perhaps—your camps amidst—
You'll think I've not done harm,
In treating in a blithesome way
What all of us must know ;
Laugh *with* or *at* me as you may—
Content am I—that's true.

So, all ye valiant men-at-arms,
Who fight to quell rebellion ;
Who fear no foe, or war's alarms,
We'll form our first battalion.



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TITLE I.

ARTICLE FIRST.

Formation of regiment in line of battle.

ORDER OF COMPANIES.

- * 1. First, sixth, fourth, and ninth—to which add the third,
Will comprise the right wing, as I've always heard;
Eighth, fifth, tenth, and seventh—of course with the second,
Complete your parade, if rightly I've reckoned.
To simplify this—make it easy to learn—
For such of my friends as may feel some concern:
Lest they cannot remember, you'll readily see
That the right wing makes—16—498—
Whilst the left—I distinctly assure you 'tis true—
Is, 8—51—0—72.
Thus proving at once, beyond cavil or doubt,
That the left leads the right in numbers, about,
We'll say, eight hundred and thirty-four thousand
five hundred and seventy-nine—a mere trifle,
if in dollars, over and above a corp'ral's pay.

* The numbers placed in the margin correspond with the numbers of paragraphs in the last edition Regulation Tactics.

RHYMED TACTICS.

Is your regiment lacking full quota of men?
The rule still applies, as with companies ten:
For the *first* takes the *right*—known as the
right flank—

And the *second* the left—since that's next in
rank;

The *third* the right centre—so on, if you please,
Your battalion is formed with comfort and ease.

Now, whilst you manceuvre, your stations are
known

By your *place in the line*, not your rank, as I've
shown;

Since while *first's* still the *first*, you readily see
The *second* is tenth, by what once was Hardee.

9. The four, front and rear, that together you stand,
Are comrades in battle—you will understand ;
10. Now, to know just how far front-rank is from
rear,
Breast to back, is just thirteen inch in the clear.

This known, you will station your officers brave,
According to rules that next page you shall
have.

POSTS OF COMPANY OFFICERS, SERGEANTS, AND
CORPORALS.

18. On right of your company, *captain* will stand,
(First corporal touching with elbow, not hand ;)
14. The *first sergeant* will stand direct in his rear,
(Called "covering sergeant," as'll shortly ap-
pear :)
19. The balance of sergeants, you know you've four
more,
20. Make a sequence from *left*, as thus : 2—3—4 ;
21. And the fifth—your learning to facilitate,
22. I've taken the trouble to draw you this plate.
16. First lieutenant in rear, fourth section you'll find,
17. Second ditto, will stand first platoon behind ;
24. The corporals take their place by direction—
At *left*, and the *right* of *front* of *each section*.
25. When any from drills or parade are away,
The next one in rank, takes his place for the day.

POSTS OF FIELD OFFICERS, &C.

27. In rear of the file-closers, colonels will be,
One score and ten paces the whole line to see ;

28. The next in command, will but twelve paces go,
The major is posted twelve paces, also,
30. The adjutant eight, sergeant-major as near.
To station the rest, I have not got room here;
The whole by your colonel will gladly be shown,
When he thinks it worth while each place
should be known.

COMMANDS.

Three kinds of command there are, I shall mention ;

62. The *caution* is first—the word is *Attention* ;
63. The next, to inform you how to move, and where,
Intended to warn you for motion *prepare* ;
64. And the last, which is brief, such as “ *March*,”
or, say “ *Halt*,”
If spoke quick and firm, cannot catch you in
fault.

And now, if you think as a teacher I'll suit,
At once we'll begin on the School of Recruit.

School of the Soldier.

- In this part of work, (getting perfect in drill.)
70. *Each* man must be carefully practised, until
In *facings* he moves like a living machine,
Complete in his movements—no error'll be seen ;
Then, but not until then, I pick out four men,
And *together* we'll work at *facings* again.
72. Have patience, great patience, I'll oft think it
best
That you should receive the commanding word,
Rest,
Which liberty gives you for looking around,
For moving the feet, laying down on the
ground—

Or any thing resting ; in short, you're quite free—

Not leaving the spot without leave from me.

8. When "*In place—Rest*" I say, and naught farther add,

It is to relieve your position, my lad ;

One foot in its track you must then always keep,
With the rest of your body, kick, dance, or sleep,
Till,

"*Attention*," the "*Squad*," you'll hear me command ;

Then, *soldiers' position's* resumed by the band,
(Or *squad*, as you please.) This *posé* I'll detail,
Since a bad *setting up*, 'll make everything fail.

POSITION OF THE SOLDIER.

18. The *heels* on one line, and together as near
As the size of your legs, or bowlegs will bear ;
The *toes*, turning out, while erect on the hip,
Leaning forward a little—neither side tip—
The body's adjusted. The shoulders keep square,
Position as easy as home, or elsewhere ;
Arms hanging naturally down by the side,
Elbows near body, not as though they were tied ;
The palms of the hands toward the front turned
a grain,

Fourth finger on pant-seam. The head must remain

Erect, but not stiff ; the eyes fixed on the ground,
Fifteen paces ahead. All this will be found
Essential to learn. It's truly amazing,
If perfect in this, how easy are facings.

"*Eyes—Right*,"

31. I command, and the soldier, his head
Will turn in the way I have intimated ;
The left eye, with buttons of coat bring in range,
'Tis easily done, and 'twill be very strange,

- If, when
 82. "FRONT"
 I command; at once he don't come
 As he was before hearing command number one.
83. "Eyes—LEFT,"
 By direct inverse means, he'll perform,
 Then, in practising
86. "REST,"
 He cannot go wrong.
87. "Attention" the "Squad."
 We'll now try and excel
88. In practice of *facings*. The way, I will tell:
 Position of soldier, at once you've assumed,
 I then
 "Squad, Right—FACE"
 will command, 'tis presumed;
89. At which you will see, that you raise your right
 foot
 Just slightly; then turn on the *left* heel; then
 put
 The right foot in its place, the heels on a line,
 The right face you have in precisely *one time*.
90. "About—FACE"
 Requires your closest attention;
 It cannot be learned without application.
 In *two times*, or pauses, this movement you'll
 make
91. As follows: at "About," the *right* foot you'll
 take;
 Place the hollow three inches behind the *left*
 heel,
 (The *left* foot you've turned front, for fear you
 might reel
 In making this movement.) At word of com-
 mand
92. Number two, which is *Face*, on both heels you
 stand,

And so turn wholly round; your right foot adjust,

And except that you've turned, you stand as at first.

STEPS.

I do not guess it can be necessary, I should tell

One how to walk, who'll breathe and talk,
And both things do quite well;

94. But length of step, and time of step,
I'll have to make you know;
So, now, I'll start and make a step,
These several things to show.

In *common time*, (to make the rhyme,
This last clause I have writ,)

The length is *eight and twenty inch*—
Ninety to a minute.

102. In *time* called *quick*—know, Tom or Dick,
The *length* is *just the same*;
One hundred ten, I tell you men,
In sixty seconds' time.

104. In *double-quick*, you'll cut your stick
Three-thirty inches long
One sixty-five—you'll move alive—
In minutes' time ain't wrong.

97. In marching, always you will go—
The left foot starting first—
The knee turned out, depressed the toe,
And coat-tails coming last.

114. There may be times, when *double-quick*
One eighty is a minute,
But, guided by your band's music,
There'll be no trouble in it,
When to the *run*, you have to come,
For fear of coming evil,
Along you sail, arms at a trail,
And put in like the—mischief.

108. "*Squad*—HALT :"

The foot that's coming down,
 You'll keep just where it strikes;
 Then place the other where it was
 Before your start; that's right.

Manual of Arms.

Now to the manual we will go,
 And study that a trifle;
 The manual that I shall show,
 Is only for the rifle.

127. Four of best men, since that's enough
 To practise with just now,
 I'll take, and form them in one rank,
 Each move to make them know.

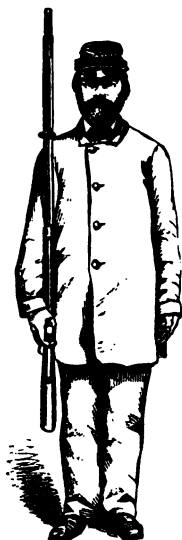
Each man, be sure, stand well and straight,
 As I've before instructed;
 I place the rifles in your hands,
 Your grasp is thus conducted:

121. Guard to the front, (arms hanging down,)
 Embraced by thumb and finger,
 As *shoulder arms*, this movement's known,
 But longer here we'll linger.

On little finger rests the lock;
 Three fingers altogether,
 Will firmly grasp the rifle's stock,
 Not clutch—but grasp it—neither
 Too low, nor must it be too high,
 But gracefully and steady
 You'll hold your piece, and bye-and-bye,
 To go on you'll be ready.

The rifle's held in the *right* hand,
 I should have said before;
 The times and motions, understand
 I'll tell—beside much more:

128. All movements of the manual
 In one time are perfected;



CAPT. WELLINGTON.

136. Command now,
 "REST,"
 At which you'll bring
137. Your right hand to the piece;
 And after, you can laugh or sing—
 In short, you stand at ease.
138. "*Attention—SQUAD*"—
139. The right hand drop,
 As I've before repeated;
 When all the motions of *Support*
 We'd carefully completed.
 Again, I order
140. "*Shoulder—ARMS.*"
 One time and motions *three*,
 Against, and *under* the *left* arm,
 The *right* will placed be.
 Seize with *left* hand the lower band,
 Your thumb at length extended;
 Slightly from shoulder move the piece,
 Left arm, it is intended
 Should lay along the stock with ease;
 Here motion first is ended.
141. To the *right* shoulder, with *both* hands
 The rifle now is mov'd;
 The rammer to the front, my man,
 Take pains and you'll improve.
 With your fore-finger and your thumb,
 The guard you'll now embrace;
 Your *left* hand to right shoulder'll come,
 Your *left* arm cross your breast.
 Your fingers straight (*not* separate),
 Your right arm almost so;
 And now, it gives me pride to state,
 We've finished motion two.
142. At *motion three*, you'll drop left hand
 Down quickly by its side;
 And thus, at Shoulder Arms you stand,
 If Hardee has not lied.



LIEUT. KLINE, 81st N. Y. S. V.





"Gov."



CAPT. DAVID LAMB, 81st N. Y. S. V.





"Gov."



CAPT. DAVID LAMB, 81st N. Y. S. V.



143. "PRESENT ARMS"

claims attention next:
One time, and motions *two*.
 The piece before your body bring
 Erect. There, that will do.
 With the *right* hand this thing is done,
 The *left*, the rifle takes
 Betwixt guide sight and lower band
 Midway; make no mistakes.
 The thumb is stretched against the stock,
 Fore-arm against your waist;
 Toward yourself you have the lock,
 Rammer, toward whom you're faced.
 So much for motion first. Now then,

144. Grasp stock with dexter hand,
 Against the guard, below it—when
 At—Present Arms—you stand.

Now

145. "SHOULDER ARMS,"

(we're getting on.)
 This time with motions *two*.
 To shoulder right the rifle bring,
 Embrace the guard, you know,
 With thumb and finger, as before.
 Now, slip up the *left* hand
 High as right shoulder, but no more;
 Hand straight, you understand.

146. That hand now drop, for *motion two*
 By left side quickly down;
 Stand straight and easy, that will do,
 And "Shoulder Arms" is shown.

The

147. "ORDER ARMS"

the next command,
One time, and motions *two*
 With the *left* hand, near upper band
 The piece you seize. Now you

- Slightly detach, with your *right* hand,
 The rifle from yourself;
 Then loose the grasp of that *right* hand,
 And lower with your *left*.
 Re-seize the piece above the band,
 With your *right* hand, and now
 Four inches from the ground you'll find
 Your butt, you'll soon see how.
 Supported by your hip, your hand
 By lower band, supports the piece;
 Left hand drops down, you understand,
 Along its side as 'twas at first.
148. For motion *two*, your rifle slip
 Down gently through your hand;
 Look out you do not strike your feet—
 Thus countless toes are jammed.
149. The piece you will with care adjust,
 The beak against your toe;
 The muzzle, from your arm, you must
 Hold inches—well—say two.
 Your hands you hold convenient low,
 The *right* the barrel grasp
 'Twixt the fore-finger and the thumb,
 With ease, you hold it fast.
 Whilst fingers three, together joined,
 Extend along the piece behind,
 And upright keep it. Now, 'tis best
 Since you're fatigued, that I say
151. "REST."
152. "ATTENTION SQUAD."
 Again we'll try
 Our hand at
153. "SHOULDER ARMS."
154. The piece you'll raise, about as high
 As the right breast. (No harm
 From frequent "*shoulders*" will accrue,
 And to a shoulder ever

The piece must come, ere we can do
 The points we now go over.)
 With the right hand, you raise the piece
 As I above have said;
 The *left*, then place below the *right*,
 The *right* then grasps the guard.

The *left* arm now is 'cross the breast,
 And thus is ended *motion first*.

155. The *left* now to its side drop down,
 And *shoulder arms* again is done.
 One time, *two* motions, as before,
 I'm *very* glad they're through, I'm *sure*.
 In nine times, diverse motions,
 The first *loadings* I ask;
 So the enumeration
 Better be our first task.

156. "Load"—is the first we shall explain;

157. To "Handle Cartridge"—is quite plain,

158. To "Tear" the "Cartridge"—naught I see,

159. Than "Charging" "Cartridge"—plainer be.

160. To "Draw" the "Rammer"—boys can do,

163. To "Ram" the "Cartridge"—even you,

164. "Return" ing "Rammer"—is no bother,

167. "Prime"—is the last except one other,

169. To "Shoulder Arms"—we've thrice essayed,

Now—Explanations shall be made.

156. First,
 "LOAD,"
 (which is no load at all,
 But only to get ready.)
 One time, and *motion* one is all.
 Now try and do it steady.
156. The piece with your left hand you'll grasp,
 As high as elbow right;
 Then bring it your body across,
 And moving in plain sight
 Shift your right hand to upper band,
 Put butt between your feet;
 The barrel from you, as you stand,
 The movement's near complete.
 The barrel near the muzzle seize,
 Hold slightly from the body;
 To cartridge-box the right hand, please,
 And now you are quite ready.
157. For second time, which I will state,
 Directs to
 "*Handle* CARTRIDGE."
 Two fingers and a thumb you'll take,
 To do this to advantage.
 Between your teeth the cartridge thrust,
 And now for number three.
158. "*Tear* CARTRIDGE."
 Since you must, you must
 For torn the thing must be.
 (That's why doctors—"sick-boy finders,"
 When you joined, did quiz your grinders.)
 When torn, you hold the thing upright,
 That powder you don't spill;
 Front of the muzzle hold it tight,
 At time the fourth, you will
159. "*Charge* CARTRIDGE." Time and motions one,
 The powder you will tip

Into the barrel; mind, my son,
 You do not lose a bit.
 The ball from paper disengage,
 With both hands this you'll do,
 Then send it on its pilgrimage,
 (The big end first, you know.)
 Within the barrel, press it down,
 With thumb of your right hand;
 Then with the right the rammer seize,
 Ready for fifth, now stand.

"Draw Rammer;" (this, with motions *three*,)
 Half draw the rammer now;
 Then hold it fast as fast can be,
 With the left thumb, and so
 You have a chance to slip your right
 On rammer, muzzle near;
 Keeping your finger-nails in sight
 Of me, not you, that's clear.
 For *motion second* you will take
 The rammer from the pipes;
 By elevating your right hand,
 The rammer in your gripe.
 For *motion third* the rammer 'll fall,
 Small end left shoulder near;
 The head of rammer place on ball,
 Front of your hand, in rear.

68. And now

"*Ram CARTRIDGE*" is the word;
 The time and motion one;
 Until the sixth, the move's deferred,
 Two more and I am done;
 For as your right hand lets it go,
 The rammer you will shove,
 With your left hand you'll hold it there,
 And move the right, above.
 Up to the small end, you will move
 This hand, and grasping there

- The rammer with finger and thumb,
 Will press the ball just where
 You want it. Then at once you're right,
 The seventh time to go to,
 (Keeping the back of hand in sight,
 The elbows body near to,)
 Will draw the rammer half way out.
164. "*Return RAMMER.*"
- This time,
 With the left thumb you'll keep it out.
 Two motions more, then Prime.
 (Since time the seventh of Rifle load,
 One time, three motions is,)
 Your right now slide from there above,
 To where the end your gun is,
 Your little finger uppermost,
 And keep in front your nails.
 The thumb along the rammer stretched,
 (In this move no man fails.)
 You'll clear the rammer from the bore,
 Your arm by stretching out,
 For motion first, there's nothing more.
 Now rammer turn about.
 For second motion—small end place
 At mouth of pipe—then force
 The rammer down that little space,
 Half way,—and then, of course,
 Your right hand 's placed, the nails turned out,
 And very near the muzzle.
 Your little finger, (without doubt,
 For rhymes I'm in a puzzle.)
 Will now the rammer press down home,
 The rammer pipes within ;
 The left will down the barrel come,
 The right where last it's been,
 (Thank Heaven, that seventh time's achieved,
 I've forced the rhyme, and am relieved.)

With motions two, and in one time,
The next time you will do,
The word commanded now is

67. "PRIME."

With speed we'll put it through.
With the left hand you'll raise the piece,
That hand high as your sight;
With the right hand, you'll grasp the stock,
And half face to the right;
The right foot place behind the left,
The hollow 'gainst left heel,
Then slip left hand adown your piece,
Till lower band you feel.
The thumb along the stock you'll place,
Left elbow 'gainst your body,
And thus you stand at half right face,
To prime you're nearly ready.
The piece you bring to your right side,
Right fore-arm over butt,
The muzzle level with your eye,
The cock on nipple shut.
Half-cock with thumb of hand the right,
The fingers 'gainst the guard,
Remove the old cap from your sight,
Its beauty being marred.
With thumb and finger in your pouch,
Feel till you catch a cap,
Then on the nipple careful couch,
What you have caught, and tap
It firmly down upon its place,
By pressing with right thumb.
The stock, then seize with your right hand,
And motion two is done.

69. Now, "SHOULDER ARMS."

This from a prime,
(The loading part is o'er,)
With motions two—but in one time,
As you have done before.

The piece to the right shoulder bring,
 With left hand hold in place :
 Face to the front, then gently swing
 The right heel into place.
 With the right hand, you'll grasp the piece,
 As oft before I've shown ;
 At second motion drop left hand,
 And nine times load—is done.
 In every movement, you must strive
 Each part to perfect do ;
 Thus at perfection you'll arrive,
 And only thus. Should you
 Slur over, in your haste to move
 One single part, you'll rue,
 Since time, this fact you'll find, will prove,
 Patience alone will do.
 The order next you have to learn
 Is

171. "READY."

Motions three ;
 With the right hand, you'll raise your piece,
 That handy it may be,
 You'll make a half pace to the right ;
 On the left heel turning,
 The right foot carry to the rear,
 You'll feel that you are learning.
 The hollow of the same right foot
 A proper angle making,
 Against the left foot heel, you'll put,
 Whilst up the piece you're taking.
 The piece now at the lower band,
 With you're left hand you'll grasp ;
 From off your shoulder move it slight,
 And thus you hold it fast.
 For motion two, then you will bring
 With hands, your rifle down,
 The barrel slightly upward points ;
 Along the stock, your thumb





LIEUT. REEVES.

(The thumb of your left hand, I mean)
 Extended is ; and now
 The butt is 'neath your right fore-arm,
 Don't get it there too low ;
 The stock against your body is,
 Two inches 'neath the breast,
 The muzzle high as your right eye,
 Against the side, your rest
 Left elbow, now, with your right thumb,
 The cock, you'll gently press,
 Your fingers 'neath the guard will come,
 And two is done, unless
 My meaning, you've misunderstood,
 But this is what you never should.
 For motion third, full cock the piece ;
 Then seize at small of stock
 The rifle, but in doing this,
 Be sure, don't move the butt.
 My next command, to " Arm " will be,
 One time, one motion still ;
 You raise your piece, that you may see,
 What you intend to kill.
 Support the butt 'gainst shoulder right,
 Incline the head upon it,
 Your right eye fix upon the sight,
 Your left, the lid upon it.
 Your right thumb stretched upon the stock,
 On trigger the fore-finger,
 With shoulder, slightly press the butt,
 Or in your tracks, you'll linger
 But a very short time after you fire, particularly
 if you have a very heavy charge in, since some of
 the arms of the present warlike period, do kick like
 mischief.
 If in two ranks your firing's done,
 For that I will provide ;
 The rear rank man will take a step
 Eight inches to right side.

177. Now, "FIRE,"

Try to make a mess
Of some deluded foe,
Your finger 'gainst the trigger press,
And bang, your gun will go.
Don't move a hair,—stand at the aim,
That posture does not cease

179. Till word is given,

"LOAD,"

And then

With both hands bring the piece,
Butt 'twixt your feet, as back we've seen,
When loadings first, we did begin.

182. Or,

"SHOULDER ARMS,"

may be command;

Then briskly raise, with your left hand,
Your right up and straight assume
The "Shoulder Arms" before as shown.
(At both orders "Load" and "Shoulder,"
Face to front, with no more order,)
At times, perhaps, the Order'll be

184. "RECOVER ARMS."

You then

Position take of motion three,
Of "Ready"—studied when
Some pages back we were, let's see,
I think it was 1—78.
This order comes (I mean Recover),
From *aim*, *before* the word, to fire,
When for some good, sufficient reason
To fire, it's thought, 'tis not fit reason.

186. Now,

"SHOULDER ARMS,"

From the Recove

Or motion third of Ready;
With thumb and finger, piece half-cock,
And bring to shoulder steady.

188. "FIX BAYONET."

And now you will

Prepare for conflict dire.

With the left hand, you grasp the piece

At shoulder height, not higher.

Detach it slightly from your form,

And motion first of Fix is done.

189. With the right hand you quit the piece,

The left has it in charge;

Betwixt the feet, the butt is placed,

The right hand still at large.

Now change the hands,—at upper band

With right, the rifle seize;

The left, of bayonet takes hold,

Ready for what it please

To do. At motion third of Fix,

The weapon draw from out

It's sheath, and now you firmly fix

It on your rifle stout.

This done, at once you upright stand,

The rifle held with both your hands,

191. Till,

"SHOULDER ARMS,"

Is said.

With the left hand, you'll raise the piece;

And to right shoulder send;

The Rammer front—and then you'll seize

The stock—(right arm extend,)

Thumb and forefinger clasp the guard,

Right hand at swell of stock.

192. For second motion, as you've heard,

The left hand you will drop,

And Shoulder's finished.

193. "CHARGE BAYONET."

The brave man's aim,

One time, and motions two,

If rightly done, the foe you'll harm,

(Rhymes forced, I think, don't you?)

- The piece with your right hand you'll lift,
 Make half face to the right;
 On the left heel, your facing shift,
 Place right foot opposite
 Left heel,—hollow three inches from
 The heel, I just have named;
 At the same time, left hand will come
 To piece 'bove lower band.
194. For motion two, the piece you'll bring
 Down, barrel uppermost;
 With both your hands, you do this thing;
 Your elbow left, you'll post
 Against the body. Seize the stock
 At same time with right hand,
 The Bayonet's point high as your eye.
 Once more I will command
 You,
 "SHOULDER ARMS;"
 for this, you know,
 Is always squeezing in.
 The piece, with the left hand you'll throw
 Right shoulder 'gainst, while facing;
 The Rammer to the front, of course,
 The right hand to the guard.
 Left hand to height of shoulder force,
 And motion first is said.
196. Now smartly, the left hand you'll drop
 For motion two, and now
 I order, "Trail Arms,"—here we stop
 Until I show you how.
197. "TRAIL ARMS."
 One time, and motions two,
 The motion first will be
 The same as "Order Arms," the first,
 1—47 sec.
198. At second motion, you'll incline
 The muzzle to the front,

Butt to the rear, its place assign,
 From ground four inches, don't
 Get too much of a slant on it,
 Which recruits always do,
 Unless you wish rear bayonet,
 Front rank man to run through.

199. From this to

“SHOULDER ARMS”

you'll come,
 Done many times before ;
 The piece you'll raise, with the right hand
 Upright,—than this no more.
 This movement differs, than what's known,
 From “Order Arms,” where Shoulder's shown.

200. “BAYONET UNFIX.”

Three motions to
 One time, this word demands
 To start, at motions one and two,
 The movements of your hands,
 Are just the same as those of Fix,
 On which, we back did dwell,
 1—88, 1—89,
 Second and first moves tell.

201. You've seized the bayonet in your hand,
 You'll wrest it from the piece ;
 Into the scabbard thrust it then,
 And now, the rifle seize
 With your left hand,—the arm extend,
 And “Unfix Bayonet's,” at an end.

202. To

“SHOULDER ARMS.”

Motions and times

So often used by you,
 Are two, and one, for which you'll see

203. 1—91, and 2.

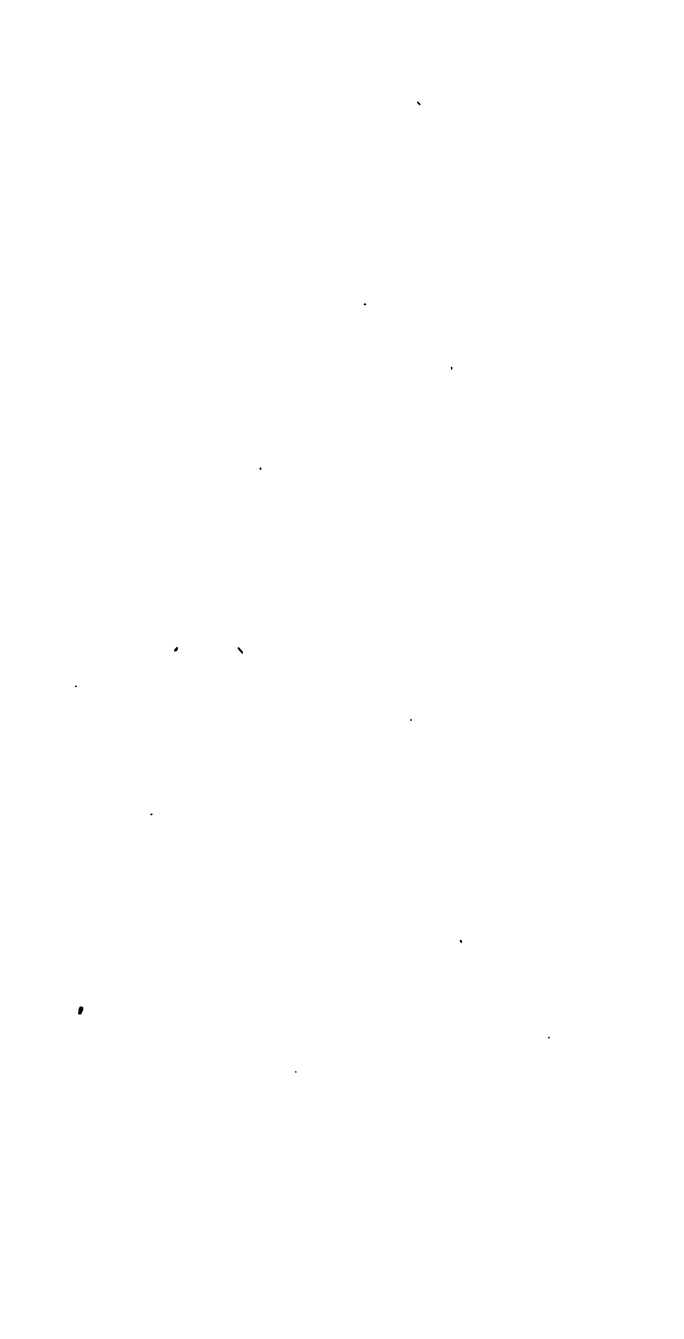
204. “SECURE ARMS.”

Here is something new,
 Your rifle to protect,



LIEUT. KOPPER, 1st Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.







W. S. GRIFFITH, 7th Regt. N. Y. S. M.

210. "*Right Shoulder—SHIFT.*"

You understand ;

This thing, you've not had yet.
Detach the piece with your right hand
From Shoulder,—then you get
It firm with left, near lower band,
'Twixt that and the guide-sight,
And raise the piece with the left hand,
About at shoulder-height.
And let there be four inches space
'Twixt shoulder and the gun ;
The right hand on the butt, you'll place,
The beak 'twixt fingers come.

211. For second motion you'll remove
Left hand, and then you'll lift
The piece to the right shoulder,—thus
You have Right Shoulder—Shift.
The lock plate up, the stock will touch
Just gently back of head,
For holding thus, you feel, you'll find
A gully Nature made ;
To hold the gun by that direction ;
The fact admits no contradiction.

212. Again we

"*Shoulder—ARMS.*"

Essay

- To get things as they were,
The right arm straighten out, the piece
Comes perpendicular.
Having then got the piece upright,
With left hand you will seize
The piece, 'tween lower band and sight.
213 Quit the butt, if you please.
With right, the guard, you now embrace,
The left hand up you slide ;
Lower the piece to Shoulder place,
Drop left hand to your side.

214. From a "Support," you're sometimes told
 "*Right Shoulder—SHIFT,*"

to come.

215. With the right hand, 'neath left fore arm,
 This movement first is done.

The piece thus held, you seize the butt
 With left hand, by its heel ;

216. You then the rifle turn about,
 The lock-plate up, you feel.

To the right shoulder, carry it,
 Left hand still holding on ;

The muzzle will be elevate,
 Place right hand, as you've done

At pause 210 ;

Place it exactly now as then.

217. "*Support—ARMS,*"

next. For this you'll see

212—which done,

218. The piece in both your hands will be,
 The barrel now you turn

In front, then carry opposite

Left shoulder ; then your right,

To small of stock, you'll gently slip

The piece you thus hold light

On left fore arm, as you before

Have done at pause 1—34.

Your right now drop down by your side,

And Support Arms, again you've tried.

219. "*Arms—AT WILL.*"

As you please,

Rifle seize,

Hung by strap,

On your back,

Or any way,

You like, you may,

With either hand,

- At any band,
By butt or stock,
By guard or lock,
Drag or lug it,
Roll or tug it,
It is still,
"Arms at Will,"—yes, "Arms at Will."
This until
"Shoulder—ARMS,"
the word you hear,
Trudging onward, never fear,
But "Arms at Will," is plain and
clear.
221. "*Ground*—ARMS." This movement next we'll try,
It from an Order'll come;
One time, two motions—now will I
Explain just how it's done.
222. The piece with the right hand you'll turn,
The barrel left you send,
223. Rise up now prompt, the left foot bring
In place the right beside,
Your hands down to your side, you fling;
And thus you will abide
Till
224. "RAISE ARMS"
is the word that's given,
When cartridge box you hold,
With left hand is this movement given,
When, Ground Arms, you were told.
The body bend, advance left foot,
Even with lower band,
Your right hand to your piece you'll put,
225. And upright you will stand.
Your left foot now in place you'll put,
Your piece at same time turn,
The ramrod front, and then you'll drop,
Left hand, left side along.
-

229. The Captain now, to each in turn
 Will come, his looks are gruff and stern;
 He'll swear, if all's not right.
 As you he reaches, you will raise
 With right, the piece, and then you'll seize
 'Twixt lower band and sight.

Lock to the front, the piece you'll bring,
 The left hand held to height of chin,
 The piece in front of eye.
 With the right hand, the piece he'll take,
 Inspect, and then he'll toss it back,
 And then, he'll pass you by.

230. Back to the "Order Arms" you'll come,
 Till with two more, the Captain's done
 And then come to "inspection."
 Return the rammer with right hand.
 (You're lucky, if you've not been damn'd,
 Or met with some correction.)

231. Perhaps

"FIX BAYONET"

is the word,
 That from the Captain's lips, you've heard,
 You'll see 2-27.
 Fix Bayonet, as there explained,
 And then at "Order Arms" remain,
 Till other word is given.

233. If after firing has been done,
 The fact the Captain wishes known
 That you've discharged you're gun,

234. "SPRING RAMMERS," he'll of course direct,
 No other word, you will expect
 Until, this thing, you've done.

The movement is the same, I'll state,
As shown above, (2-28,)

The rammer in the bore.

235. He now will listen for the ring,
Or he himself the rammer spring,

236. Then—back men, as you were.

I calculate,

At any rate,

The MANUAL is done.

I dedicate

The rhymes I make,

To him who best will learn.

Do n't deviate,

But perpetrate

Each movement as I've shown,

Both small and great,

And intricate,

They all have to be known.

In doing this,

'Twon't be amiss

If back you often go,

And study well,

What here I tell,

And every motion know.

But on one move,

I do not love

That too long you should dwell,

Lest you might crack

Your side or back,

Before you 'd learnt it well.

So from one to another, you'll frequently change,
Thus keep straight side and back, nor your shoulders
derange.

241. You've often heard of marking time,
Though not before perhaps in rhyme;
The "how," I'll indicate

By

"**MARK TIME—MARCH,**"

(the word command)

On either foot, as straight you stand,

Alternate, gravitate,*

Your body, changing leg for leg,

To bear your weight, but not a peg

Of progress do you make,

243. Till

"**FORWARD MARCH**"

commanded is;

Then forward you will straightway "big,"

The length of step you take

Is eight and twenty inches. Now

245. To

"**CHANGE STEP—MARCH**"

your Captain 'll go ;

When one foot coming down,

The other quickly long side bring,

That first foot then steps off again ;

And change step's plainly shown.

250. In our Loadings before, you'll readily see,

When each move we studied so accurately,

That each part, you might well comprehend ;

We could not make that speed, we would cultivate

While striving, are foes our quietus to make,

With hot balls from their murderous hands.

So now, that great speed we may quickly acquire,

Not in loading alone, but also in fire,

The times loading, we'll cut down to four.

But in this, as in that, each motion must be

Made with the most perfect regularity,

Or the nine, we must study some more.

* Should these directions appear to any unconsconable dun: not sufficiently explicit, I can only remark that I contract f rhymes not for brains on the part of the reader to understand the

252. 1—56—7—8—9, you'll see.
 "Load," "Handle," "Tear" and "Charge," 'twill
 Makes first of your four times. [be
 1—60 and 1 and 2—and 8,
 253. To "Draw" and "Ram" the next will be,
 Directed in these lines.

- 1—64 to 68
 As done before, you'll imitate;
 254. This is "Return" and "Prime."
 Now "Shoulder Arms" you will perform,
 Which next to Prime, you back were shown,
 And this ends your fourth time.
 256. When you've drilled as above, till you perfectly
 know
 That each time and each motion, as laid down,
 you'll show,
 On yourself having perfect reliance,
 257. "LOAD AT WILL,"
 we will try. Now in this, every
 man
 Most correctly will load, but as fast as he can,
 Thus you're bidding the foe full defiance.
 Not a soldier in this, for his neighbor will wait,
 Or his movements at all, by the next regulate,
 But perfection alone, he'll acquire.
 Which done, for the firings, both direct and
 oblique,
 All directions below, you will find, if you seek,
 Inasmuch as we mean now to fire.

FIRINGS.

261. "FIRE BY SQUAD."
 I'll command,
 "SQUAD READY and AIN,"

And "FIRE"

and "Load," these you 'll do just the same
As back, a few pages, you 've seen.
The rear rank forward a bit will incline,
To bring their pieces front is here the design,
For firing front rank men between.

Every piece in the Squad must blaze with one
crack

When,
"LOAD"

you have heard, then each piece
will come back.

32. Load, and then stand at a "Ready;"
For there is no more unpardonable folly,
Than uncertain fire, when trying a volley;
All must be attentive and steady.

33. "SQUAD AIM, FIRE and LOAD"

then direction will be,

34. Till time your instructor shall see.

35. "CEASE FIRING,"

aloud he will say.

Now to "Shoulder" each piece very readily 'll
come,

When the "Load" you 're about, completely is
done,

At "Shoulder" for orders you stay.

The firing oblique, now attention demands;

Preceded by "Caution," will be the commands

Of "Aim," when this way you 're firing.

In firings, don't move like a brute or machine,

But be sure that each time, you at something
take aim,

Like a patriot, not like a hireling.

67. In the firings oblique, when "Ready" is heard,

Your movement's the same as before at that word,

268. But after, when "Right Oblique's" said,
The two ranks will quick throw the right shoulder back,
And steadily look at the object they'd hit,
Preparing to shoot it quite dead.

269. When command comes to "Aim," each front rank will stand,
Sans deranging the feet, but aim to right hand,
At object, before they'll select;
Whilst rear rank will advance the left foot about
Eight inches to right heel of man, (stick it out.)
Right of file leader——recollect,

And aim to the right, whilst the body will be
Inclined forward, and bent a little *left* knee;
All this for the fire Right Oblique.

270. Left Oblique being said, your movements will be,
The front rank stand fast, with his feet, as you see,

271. Whilst at left, his target he'll seek.

The rear rank will now move his right foot eight inch
Towards file leader's right, as above;—never flinch,
But the body forward incline.
Right knee now is bent, proper posture to give
For aiming oblique, and both firings you have
Perfected, in motions and time.

272. In both of these cases, oblique left and right,
At "Load," you will load with great speed and
with might,
Each man as though standing alone.
The rear rank at once, with their feet will assume

The position of Front, from which they've just
come,
Ere firings, we strove to make known.

273. The firing by File, is the next we will try
In battle, by this many brave foes will die,
Who else, in triumph might fight on.
To start, front and rear of each file fire at once,
Then, as I'll explain, the firing will bounce
Through line as before, from the right on.
274. "FIRE by FILE, SQUAD READY, and FIRING COM-
MENOE,"
Is the order your Captain will give at once;
At "Ready," the two ranks will take
275. The position (2-61) we have taught;
Thus, lively, at "Ready" their arms will be
brought,
Prepared the next movement to make.
276. At command numbered 4, the right file will aim
And fire—rear man taking position the same,
As at 1-76 I provide.
277. Then briskly they'll load, and priming again,
Keep lively among them this popping off game,
Whilst file standing at their left side,
278. Will "Aim" at the instant the first file brings
down
Their guns to reload, and in all things conform
To what has been told the first file.
Third file will fire in unswerving rotation,
As the first, and the second, according to station.
Each striving the foe's front to spoil.
279. The first fire all round, never order should lack,
But like tearing of cloth, go crack, crack, crack,
crack.
-

After that each man for himself.

280. Load and Fire, Fire and Load, with what speed
he can,

But endeavor each fire to level a man,
And lay him aside, on his shelf.

281. "CEASE FIRING,"

now the Captain will command,
Which heard by each file that comprises the band,
Brings firing at once to dead lock.

282. Every man will at once his loading complete,
Rear rank men will then bring together their feet,
And shouldered all arms at half cock.

283. If now you're capable,
The "Fire by Rank" we'll try,
Is it not probable,
You'll do it bye and bye?
Since if you're tractable,
This firing, you'll soon know,
Yes, every particle,
I readily will show.

284. "FIRE BY RANK."

285. "SQUAD READY, REAR RANK AIM AND FIRE."

At "Ready," position you'll take as before,
When after Ready's been said,
More carefully now, every error to shun,
If you need it, refer to 2—61,
Where all the directions are read.

286. Now, "load" is the word; at this seventh command,

The rear rank will Load, and Ready they'll stand;
By practice, you know this position.

287. When

"FRONT RANK, AIM, FIRE,"

as the rear just has done,
And after the "Load," to the "Ready," they'll
come,
Of errors, I've here no suspicion.

289. Now then, rear rank, again, then, front rank
again,
Then the rear, then the front, then once more
the same,
'Till nature shall need some relief;
So "Cease Firing" is said,— "Dismiss the
parade,"
I'm satisfied well with the progress you've made,
We next tackle Lesson the Fifth.

290. To
"FIRE AND LOAD KNEELING,"
at first should be taught,

291. To one at a time, who in front will be brought

292. Of the squad, say, some three paces;
Who having received now the word of command,
His right foot will carry to rear, and right hand,
Of left heel. See that he so places

His feet in such way that in bending left leg,
His right knee to the ground, as if he would beg,
This posture he'll easy assume;
His piece he will lower, left arm on his thigh,
On the small of the stock the right hand will lie,
On right thigh butt rests I presume.

293. Supporting the piece at lower band with left
hand,
Turn the right leg as far as he can command,
His knee on the ground as a pivot;
Thus on his left heel, he'll find a firm seat,
If not very wide, at least snug and neat,
Not likely by usage to give out.

294. Raise piece with the right and support with left
hand,
This support you have near or at lower band,
Left elbow you rest on left thigh;
Fore finger 'neath guard—with the thumb you
will cock
The rifle, then seize it at small of the stock,
Bring to shoulder, aim, and let fly.
295. As soon as you've fired, the piece you'll bring
down;
With left hand support, as is readily shown,
'While 'gainst the right thigh rest the butt,
To the rear carry piece, whilst rising on knee,
Your left hand slip upward, and then you will be
All ready to load, are you not?
296. When loaded, bring piece to the front with left
hand,
The right, at the small of the stock you will
stand,
Turn piece barrel uppermost now;
Half-cock, then remove the old cap, and ther
prime,
And return to your ranks. All done in less tim
Than it takes me here to tell how.
297. The next man comes up, the same thing to g
through,
Then the next, and so on, till all can it do,
Or have at least giv'n it a trying.
298. We then will pass on to a much simpler task,
For awhile to this thing attention I ask.
299. The command will be,
FIRE AND LOAD LYING.
300. And this, like the last, must alone be essayed,
Before men are fit to sprawl out at parade,

And fire toward a fancied foe.
Three paces in front, number one will proceed,
Come to "Order," then drop on both knees in-
deed,
Lik a penitent rascal, I trow.

Lower yet, lower yet, since flat on your face,
For firing this time will be nearly your place;
The piece with your left hand support;
'Gainst shoulder you bring it, and carefully aim,
(Before this you've cocked), you then fire just
the same,
As firing last you were taught.

Support for your body, in this awkward fire,
You'll gain from both elbows, but carried no
higher,
Than enough to well see your marks;
01. Having fired, bring piece down, and turn on
left side,
Your body on left elbow still will abide,
Like "Pip," you may think, "Oh, what
larks!"

The piece you bring back with butt on the
ground,
With your right a cartridge is readily found,
Then throw yourself on to your back;
The rifle you now will shove back to the rear,
The muzzle t'your nose you will not hold too
near,
At loading you'll soon get the knack.

002. When loading is finished, on left side once more,
On left elbow leaning, as you were before,
You'll take off the old cap, and prime;
Then raise up the piece, and yourself turn about,

-



CAPT. NED JOHNSON, 81st Regt. N. Y. S. V.

The heels to their place, as they were just before
The "Guard," on the welkin did ring.

08. Now, "*Guard against Cavalry*—GUARD," is the cry,
At which, with your bayonet high as your eye,
You'll repeat what above you went through,
Your right hip for right hand will form a support,
As at 193 the "charge" you were taught;
09. At "shoulder" you know what to do—
(Exactly the same as at 307,
The movements of shoulder to you I have given.)

We now in progression have reached part the
third,
The manual and firings all through you have
heard,
And at once can, I think, with care make ad-
vance
To that part of the school I now shall commence:
11. One rank forms your squad, *to the left, from*
the right,
With elbow to elbow each other touch slight,
That better "alignments" you may comprehend,
Two men from your right to your front I shall
send
Two paces; you quickly will then, one by one,
To the new line they've formed successively
come.
As one, two and three, I then numbers shall call
Until in succession I've finished up all,
812. On the line, to the right your head and eyes
turn,
By directions I gave at first—81.
Turn back to the place, if to my great regret,
The thing then I taught, you so quickly forget.

- In forming this line, you must never go past
 The guide on your right, neither move up so fast,
 That *one step* to the *rear* essential shall be
 For new line to be formed with accuracy.
213. When this new alignment has proved a success,
 And your men are in place, I'll make this address:—
314. To the
 "FRONT"
 now at once all eyes you will cast,
 Fifteen are the paces, as in lessons past;
316. When, by constant striving, this thing you
 can do,
317. To
 "*Right*" or "*Left—Dress*"
 we will rapidly go,
 Except the two men that are placed in advance.
 The whole rank to align, at once we'll commence,
 On these two men again—each man for himself,
 But all at one time—see three hundred and
 twelfth,
 Directions for each in that I have laid down,
320. Again, I say
 "FRONT,"
 this, too, is well known.
321. If dress to the rear advantageous may seem,
 The same rules will apply, but I cannot deem
 It essential to go again over rules
 That you understand, if you're men and not fools.
322. The orders alone, I now here will record,
 "RIGHT (or left) BACKWARD DRESS,"
 make sure is the word.
 In making these moves be quite certain to hold
 Your rifles exactly by rules you've been told.
 But lest you're fatigued after practise 't is best
 That often I give "Order Arms," and then
 "Rest."

18. In future, while drilling, this truth I promulge,
That in *common time* you will never indulge,
Except by an order expressly therefor,
14. Without which, *quick step* is the rule and the
law;
The rules for quick step, at one hundred and two,
I carefully taught, you remember, do n't you?
5. The "March to the Front," is the next we select,
Move true to your guide, let each step be correct.
6. "SQUAD FORWARD,—GUIDE RIGHT," and then
"MARCH,"
is command,
Should you feel out of place, look to your right
hand,
As there your *best* man, as guide I shall station,
I mean as a soldier, of morals no mention
I deem prudent to make; but this thing is true,
That if *you* march by him, I've no fault with
you.
- With left foot you start, marching prompt and
quick step,
Your shoulder keep square on the line—that is it.
17. Touch lightly the elbow toward side of your
guide,
Your arms keep in place; while if from the *right*
side
Any pressure you feel, to that gently yield,
But *left* arm have given fair play and fair field,
If you lose your right touch, don't jump into
place,
But gradually recover the touch you have lost.
28. Eyes to the front, length of step eight and
twenty
Inches. And then 1-0-2 are a plenty
29. To make to the minute, just that, and no more,
With line of direction, the shoulder keep square,

Now "*Halt*" and "*Right dress*," any error detect
 That you've made in marching, and at once correct,
 A perfect right line with your guide you will seek.
 After "*Front*," we will try some marching oblique.

830. The

"**RIGHT OBLIQUE, MARCH,**"

at the second command,
 Make half face to the right, from that point of stand
 Straight forward you go, in this new direction;
 With others, your elbows have no connection;
 But glance to the side toward which you're obliquing,
 From that, your proper position be seeking:
 Your shoulder, behind those of your right neighbor,
 Thus keep in your place, sans bother or labor.

832. While marching I'll change your line of direction,

833. By the word,

"**FORWARD—MARCH,**"

when without a fraction,
 Of course, to the left you will make a half face,
 And march *to the front at the same steady pace.*

834. The "*Double quick*" is now what ye

Your practice next in marching see,
 But very careful you must be
 In length of step and time.

The length of step of that, you know,
 Is three and thirty inches, so
 One sixty-five per minute go,
 With music steps will chime.

836. When "DOUBLE QUICK," the word is said,
 And after "March" you'll find I add,
 At double quick you'll start off steady. (That's for the rhyme.)
 One Hundred Six, and also Seven,
 'T is there these steps are fully given,
 And if to learn them you have striven,
 You're not in fault this time.
837. Now to resume, see how much you
 Of all that I have told you know,
 Back "Quick step—March," at once we go.
 (This is a thought of mine.)
 Although 'twas stolen by Hardee,
 Some years before this date, you see,
 When arms were quite unknown to me,
 And I can't prove the crime.)
838. At the word "*March*" the step you'll take,
 Measures but inches twenty-eight,
 And so your speed you will abate,
 Conformant to quick time.
839. When "*Halt*" you hear the word command,
 Without a jerk in your tracks stand,
 By rules I've taught your clever band,
 At 98 and 9.
840. When double quick you marching be,
 (For this rule turn to 240,) Where all this thing's laid down (q. v.),
 I order you, "Mark time."

347. Upon each other do not lean,
Nor yet have any space between
Your elbows—touching as you've seen,
Some page or two now gone.
348. In marching to the front you'll see,
At "shoulder arms" your arms should be,
To keep them so, I'll have to de-
—mand rigidest attention.
349. In marching at the "double quick,"
Your arms upon right shoulder stick,
Unless your Captain has a trick
Of "Trail"-ing "arms" to mention.
350. But if he wishes arms at Trail,
Before you start, to this avail,
He'll order so—then on you sail,
Deserving commendation.
- If to say "Trail" he does omit,
When starting you at double quick,
You never then, will please forget,
Right shoulder is direction.
- When "Halt" is said, in either case,
Up to a "Shoulder Arms," you place
Your piece, with speed, and soldier's grace,
Without fear of correction.
351. Now, from a "*Halt*" all through the rank,
We'll try the marching by the flank.
"*Squad, right—FACE—Forward, MARCH—is*
crank
Enough for indication.
352. At the word "Face," above as said,
To right all face, body and head,
By rules you'll find expressly made,
At 89's direction.

58. "*Squad*, HALT," and "FRONT."
 Of this command,
 59. At second, every man will stand
 Right in the tracks wheré his feet land,
 E'en though he deviate
 From what his proper place should be,
 Having, or gained, or lost, you see
 Prohibition necessary
 Men to habituate.
 Their proper distance to preserve,
 Neither to right nor left to swerve,
 But every marching rule observe,
 Though it be intricate.
60. At third command each man I'll thank,
 Face to the left, if by right flank
 They've marching been—then in one rank,
 The march they terminate.
 If by *left flank* the march was made,
 A *right face* make, if I'm obeyed,
 In one rank form, as before said,
 (Old soldiers emulate).
- Then, as you face, each rear-rank man,
 Steps to his place quick as he can ;
 61. Now change direction by the plan
 Next verse I'll promulgate.
62. "*By File Left*—MARCH," which order heard,
 The first file starts upon the word ;
 A small arc make, if they've not erred,
 The next file coming up
 Wheels just where wheeled the file before,
 Elbows still touch as heretofore ;
 Then others come after these four,
 But don't wheel too abrupt.

368. All this—the marching now I mean—
At “double quick” should oft be seen ;
Practice will make it “all serene,”
Or so it will appear.

371. There seems no need I should detail
That “double quick” your arms you trail ;
Or, at a “shoulder” bear, ’tis stale
If ’tis so oft repeated.

In various ways these things we’ll act,
That every part we may enact,
With times and motions all exact,
As oft I have entreated.

WHEELINGS.

377. We’ll now study wheelings,
Of which there are two,
From *halts*, or in *marching*,
Both which you must know ;
The first on “*fixed pivots*,”
As thus it is named,
The second is “*moveable*,”
“*Pivot*” proclaimed.

378. If from *order of battle*
You wish to proceed,
To order in column,
The *first* you will need ;
Or if, *vice versa*,
You’ve cause to repair,
’Tis in the *same way*,
But done “*au contraire*.”

379. You’ll find that the *second*
In *marching* is tried,
In *changing direction*
Adverse to the guide.

380. In wheels from a *halt*,
 The pivot marks time ;
 Thus turns in his place,
 A movement sublime.
 This man, called the pivot,
 You'll find of great use,
 If steady and sober,
 Not cross or obtuse ;
 In short, he's an "institution."
381. In *wheeling* while marching,
 The *pivot* takes *steps*,
 Entirely with reference
 To time the squad keeps :
 Take *nine* inches for *Quick*,
 Eleven for Double,
 To clear wheeling point,
 Without any trouble.
382. Let the wheeling-flank man
 Take full twenty-eight,
 Or 33 inches,
 According to gait.
383. On the wheeling flank put
 A man of some gump,
 And
 By SQUAD—"RIGHT WHEEL"—"MA"
 Well try at a jump.
384. Now the rank will step off,
 By their left foot led,
 All the time to the left,
 Inclining the head ;
 Pivot man marks the time,
 In order to keep
 In perfect accordance
 With wheeling-man's step.
 This, the *twenty-eight* inch,
 And so to be kept ;
 Now he never will pinch

- The man on his right,
 Whom his elbow 's against,
 But just touch him light,
 Give no cause for complaint;
 Left shoulder advance,
 Whilst his eyes 'long the line
 He'll now and then glance.
385. Other men in the Squad
 With elbows feel light,
 But just touching the lads
 That march on their right:
 While each step will comport
 To marching flanks pace,
 And their steps growing short,
 According to place;
 Those nearest the pivot
 Will shortest steps make,
 Nor the farthest forget
 T' elongate their gait.
386. We will keep up this wheel,
 For several times round,
 And at last at the place
 We first left—be found;
387. Then the wheel 'tother way
 By same rules you know,
 Which when done, then we may
388. To
 "SQUAD HALT,"
 now go.
389. At "Halt," every man
 Standing fast in his tracks,
 (Since 't is a bad plan
 To move forward or back;)
 The Captain now goes
 To the marching flank's side,
 Station'g as he knows,
 In right place the left guide,

Save only that now,
 Touch of elbow 'll remain,
 Toward *marching* flank, so
 The right place to sustain.
 The pivot or guide.
 Just feeling the elbow
 Of him by his side,
 Marching now in a bow,
 Takes steps inches nine,
 And is thus gaining ground,
 For all of the line,
 As by practice is found.
 The middle of rank
 Will bend slightly to rear,
 In doing this prank,
 (That's a wrong word, I fear.)

- 396.** While marching flank man,
 Over ground we must pass,
 Casts eyes as he can—
 He takes steps as in last.
- 397.** The wheel being done,
 Command next that you'll hear
 Is
 "FORWARD"—and MARCH,"
- 398.** Upon which it is clear,
- 399.** That forward you go,
 As your Captain now goes,
 'Tis simple, you know
 To be following your nose.
 Each man the old gait
 Will at once now resume,
 Quick Step—(twenty-eight)
 As e'er wheelings were done.
- 400.** Direction to change
 To the side of the guide,
 This way we arrange,
 As command will decide,

"LEFT" (*or right*)—"TURN," and "MARCH,"
Are the words of command.

401. The left,—we will see

If we can understand

402. When "*march*" is pronounced

As the rank ought to turn,

The guide, will at once

Face to left you will learn.

Move on the new way,

Without altering his step,

The other men—they

New direction will keep,

Attained by a turn,

At Double Quick step,

Which done—then their head and

Eyes turn toward the guide,

And retake the touch

Of the elbow, that side.

Alignments being made

By each man in his place,

Front—will come his head,

And resumed the old pace.

403. The wheels and turns we've now gone through,

And practised o'er with care,

In Double Quick we now will do,

So for that time prepare.

The rules by which you'll execute,

These movements in that time,

Are those you found me institute

Quite early in this rhyme.

The length of steps of course increased,

(All which you knew before),

The rule, however, you'll find placed

At number 1—0—4.

16. Thus at the "Double Quick " and run,
 These moves you will repeat,
 And sometimes, for a bit of fun,
 With knapsack, all complete.

7. By constant practice you will come
 Thus loaded to go o'er
 Five or six miles, with trouble none,
 And that, within an hour.

6

END OF SCHOOL OF THE SOLDIER.

School of the Company.

In the School of the Company, never neglect
 What the School of the Soldier has taught you
 Since you'll readily see, if you'll please to reflect
 That the study we've past, has had for its object
 Preparation for this that now I select,
 And to which I have gradually brought you

4. Now,
 "IN EACH RANK COUNT Two's"
 —is the word of command;
 You're *in line*, as by previous direction,
5. Both men of each file, front and rear, understand,
 Together we'll count. You commence at right
 hand,
 And, "*One*," "*Two*," and "*One*," "*Two*," till
 through your band
 Odd and evens are known to perfection.

As your platoons and sections you now regulate
 First platoon, you'll be sure to remember,
 Even-numbered in files, must be accurate,
 With this done, you'll proceed, intent and steady
 To perform the first movement, which I indicate

8. You're now standing—your arms at an *order*.
9. "*Attention Company*," "*Shoulder ARMS*"—and
 then,
 "*To the rear open order*," I'll say.
 At command the fourth, to the rear of the men
 Step your right and left guides—four paces—again
 when
 This is properly done—but not until then—

- I add, "**MARCH.**" The *front* rank then may
11. *Stand fast* in its tracks, looking straight to the front,
 12. While the *rear* will step back to the guide.
In this movement, your steps there's no need to count,
Align yourselves carefully on your Sergeant;
 16. Which done, the left guide, at the order to "**FRONT,**"
To his place in the rear makes a stride.

- 18 To all the alignments, we now must attend,
That you may arrive at perfection:
By file—and together—I'll have to command,
Obliquing, and backward, to all you'll attend,
That each time, the movement before, you'll amend,
And "**DRESS**" with no cause for correction.

But the rules are the same we've studied before,
See 317, and along there ;
The rules I've there given, I'll dwell on no more
Than just to refer there—since I'm very sure
That to work at them here would be a sad bore,
So well have we done them elsewhere.

26. The manual, with open rank,
In this order go through,
The times and motions, you'll not thank
Me more to give to you.
"**PRESENT ARMS,**" is the first, you know,
And next, you come to "**SHOULDER;**"
While then, the next that you will do,
Of course, is come to "**ORDER.**"
To "**GROUND ARMS,**" next I will request,
And then, your arms you "**RAISE.**"
Again, a "**SHOULDER**" will be best ;
"**SUPPORT ARMS,**" is next phase.

"SHOULDER," again, as heretofore ;
 "FIX BAYONET" 's then done ;
 And then, with care, again once more,
 To "SHOULDER ARMS" you'll come.
 "CHARGE BAYONET," next in order 'll be ;
 Then "SHOULDER ARMS;" then "TRAIL;"
 Then "SHOULDER ARMS," again I'll see,
 For "UNFIX" now I hail.
 "SHOULDER," again—you'll know that part;—
 "SECURE ARMS," now you try ;
 Then "SHOULDER"—do it quick and smart;—
 "LOAD IN NINE TIMES," say I.

28. "*Close order—MARCH.*" The manual done,
 To close ranks is correct ;
 The *rear* rank, now, march up ; each man
 To file leader, direct.
 Then more alignments we'll essay :
 Oblique, and left, and right—
 All which you'll practice constantly,
 Nor either movement slight.
 "IN PLACE REST;" also, "REST," alone,
 You very well do know ;
 At 72 the thing is shown,
 To which I refer you.
42. Your arms, perhaps, you may have stacked ;
 Perhaps they 're in your hand ;
 And if the latter is the case,
 "*Attention,*" I command.
43. And add, "*Company—SHOULDER ARMS,*"
 The firings to go through ;
44. "LOAD IN NINE TIMES," will be the first
 That I shall ask of you.
 251, and so along,
 These movements all rehearse ;
 Remember them—you won't go wrong,
 Nor make me fume and curse.

45. Then, "LOAD AT WILL," we will review—
Shown at 256,
Which, when 't is proved to me by you,
You know, I will affix
48. The "FIRE BY COMPANY"—to what
Already you are taught.
49. "COMMENCE FIRING"—the second word;
Your Captain now is brought
Six paces to your rear; at once
First Sergeant backs the same;
The Captain's back of the centre,
While Sergeant will remain
Back of his interval in line,
And now, these words are said:
50. "*Company, ready*," and then "*AIM*,"
And "*FIRE!*"—You're not afraid,
51. Then "*LOAD*," you now will *load at will*,
Your pieces then adjust
At "*Ready*." Hold them so until
52. "*Company—AIM—FIRE*," must
Be heard by you; and after "*LOAD*;"
Then load away, my man;
The shot that does his country good,
Will load quick as he can.
53. Attention you will always give
To ev'ry Captain's freak;
You'll have his notions to forgive,
54. Should he say, "*Right oblique*,"
Or "*Left*"—'t is always just the same.
The word you'll ever hear
Preparatory to the "*AIM*,"
Or *he's* in fault, I fear.
55. The "*Fire by file*," will be the next,
275 't is shown;
I must allow I shall be vex'd
If by you it's not known.

58. The "*fire, by rank*," we've also seen,
 285, and so on;
 Now, I assure you, I don't mean
 To repetitions go on.
63. When to "*CEASE FIRE*," the sound you hear,
 You 'll *know* just what you 'll do:
 Come to a "*ready*,"—do you hear?—
 Then see, 282.
- Not that I mean that you must turn
 Back on the book in practice,
 But every portion so well learn,
 You 'll need no written tactics.
 My book I 've no ambition to
 Make *take the place* of all,
 But some moves I 'll impress on you;
 Not only that, but *make* you do;
 Show you in such a way, 't is true,
 That though some other way you knew,
 Still all I tell, you will allow,
 Plainly is told, or I 'll outgrow
 The name I bear—that's *** "*Gov.*"
68. "*FACE BY THE REAR RANK*"—"Company,
 ABOUT FACE," is command.
 At first, the Captain 'll place himself
 To face right file; there stand.
 Now, through the Captain's interval,
 Sergeants at once will go
 And place themselves, faced to the rear,
 As the Captain will show.
 The first Sergeant, one pace behind
 The Captain, will find station,
 Until the word, "*ABOUT FACE*" 's heard;
 And now then, I will mention,
 Both ranks at once will turn about,
 Thus facing to the rear;
 The Captain, then, steps to his place;
 First Sergeant will appear

70. Directly back of him, in place.
 You 're ready, now, to fire;
 Which done, again we 'll change our front,
78. To get 'round, as we were.
"Face by the front rank—Company—
"ABOUT FACE"—is the word;
 Captain and Sergeants, now, we 'll do
 What, just above, you 've heard:
 Step 'round to what has been the front,
 Until the "about face;"
 Then, when the men have faced about,
 They both will take their place
 On right of front and rear ranks,
 And keep both ranks in line;
 No man will move from out the place
 That to him I assign.
84. To march in Line of Battle, will
 Require your attention:
 Your shoulders keep square to the front—
 You 've often had direction.
89. *"Company, forward MARCH,"* is said;
 Then all will move with life,
 The left foot first, 't is thus you will
 Advance to battle's strife.
 Your elbows you will barely touch,
 Don't crowd, but step with ease;
 You step just eight-and-twenty inch,
 And *quick step*, if you please.
93. Two paces rear of the rear rank,
 Your file closers will be;
 Don't lose the step, but if you should,
 By Sergeants guided be.
97. That marching by the front you go,
 With no need of correction;
 Try, straight at once, a long ways go,
 In just the same direction.
-

100. "Company, HALT," we all went through
In Soldier's School—320 ;
The rules the same are, here as there,
And studied are in plenty.
101. The *march oblique*, in battle line,
You need not think it odd,
If told the rules are still the same
As obliquing by the squad ;
102. The rules for which, you know you'll find
In Soldier's School—331.
If each man every step will mind,
The thing at once will then be done.
104. Then change to
"Forward, MARCH"—in which,
Again, your elbows touch,
And march straight forward—shoulders square,
So do not change too much.
105. In *oblique march*, you 'll find your guide
The side t'ward which oblique's made;
Then, when you change to *forward march*,
He's back again, 't is said,
To either side on which he was
Before the march oblique;
This is a rule that's general,
Your guide on that side seek.
- If you should chance to slightly lose
107. Your proper place in line,
By taking too great length of step,
Or taking steps too fine,
Don't lose the cadence of the step,
But make it short or long,
According as you've lost your place,
By stepping somewhat wrong.
-

110. To "*Mark time, MARCH,*"
will sometimes make
A part of drilling programme;
Then *Forward march*, then *Double quick*,
All which you'll do the same
As in the school we've past was taught;
Those rules, you'll ever find,
Must never, never, be forgot,
But constant in your mind.
116. "*Company, backward—MARCH,*" you'll find
Not difficult to do;
But seldom do you march that way,
For exercise, you know.
119. Since, if it seems you must retreat,
And best men sometimes must,
"*Company, about—FACE,*" is the word;
And then, you know, I trust,
120. At "*Forward—MARCH,*" now you will keep
Yourselves in perfect line—
125. Of all of which you've heard me speak,
At 88 and '9.
128. When you are marching, and it seems
That backward you must go,
"*Company, right about,*" is said,
And "*MARCH;*" which said, you'll know
To face directly to your rear,
And march without delay;
131. And then, again, you may be faced
To march the other way.
133. When marching in Quick Time, your arms,
Right shoulder shift, are at,
The distance 'twixt the ranks will be
Just sixteen inches. That,
By the rear rank will be done,
By shortening their step
A trifle at the start—'t is thus
They regulate the gap.

In Double Quick, ten inches more,
 Say twenty-six in all;
 The rear rank regulates its step,
 To make this interval.

134. Whenever to a "HALT" you come,
 At once *close up your ranks*;
 To *shoulder arms* you bring your piece.
 We'll now march by the flank.
135. "*Company*, RIGHT FACE—*Forward*, MARCH."
136. First Sergeant takes his stand
 In Captain's place, in the front rank,
 Captain to his left hand;
 When to a *right face* all have come,
 The front rank this will do,
 By rules in School of Soldier—shown,
 Number 352.
 The rear rank takes side-step to right,
 And doubles in same way;
 The even-numbered men will be
 On right of odd. Thus they
 Will stand—four men aligned,
 Elbow to elbow, too;
 'T is in this way it is designed
 You stand: 1—2—1—2.
137. The file closers will also take
 A side step to the right,
 That when the ranks are formed, they'll be
 Two paces from rear, quite.
138. At the word *march*, as said above,
 Move briskly, in quick time;
 Captain and Sergeant, as I've shown
 Aforetime, in this rhyme.
 File closers opposite their place,
 In line of battle shown;
140. When marching by right flank you do,
 The *left* is quickly known,

Since by directly inverse means,
That movement will be done.

3. You're marching by the flank, my man,
And now, it needful seems
That line of battle you should form,
We do it by this means:

Command will be this—

9. "On the right

By file"—then, "*into line*,"
And after when the "MARCH," is said,
The rear rank will mark time.

The Captain, and the Orderly
(As "Covering Sergeant" known),
Turn to the right; six paces march—
The new line thus is shown.

To properly align the men,
As up by files they come,
The duty is of these two men;
The rest is this way done:

9. The first file of the front rank men,
March straight on 'till they've passed
The place where just their Captain turned—
Take care, now—not too fast.

Turn to the right; then march until
Two paces from new line;
The *even* number shortens step
To go the odd behind.

The odd man, now, will take his place
In line, 'long Captain's side;
The even takes a step oblique,
And to his place will glide.

Thus, in the front rank, now you have
The Captain and two men;
The other front files, coming up
Into their places; then,

Are careful that, before they turn,
 They 're even with their place ;
 Then march directly to the line,
 And cross, when off two pace.

Thus each file, in succession, will
 Repeat the movement given,
 For the first file, above set down ;
 Odd passing behind even.

When two files of the front rank men
 Are properly aligned,
 The rear rank starts, and will go up
 Where they'll the Sergeant find.

Repeating for the rear rank, thus,
 What the front rank 's gone through,
 The Sergeant seeing that they stand
 In line, both straight and true.

150. When you are marching by left flank,
"Left, into line," 't will be ;
 In *this* case, when you reach the line,
Odd shortens steps, you see.

The even numbers then proceed
 To take their proper station ;
 The *odd* then take the step oblique,
 Completing the formation.

151. One at a time, your ranks, at first,
 This movement will attempt ;
 It thus is easier learned by you,
 Although more time is spent.

153. If that last move you now have learned,
 Another we'll go through :
"By company," and *"into line,"*
 And *"MARCH,"* we'll try and do.

- You're marching, now, by the right flank;
When this command is heard,
154. Your First Sergeant will keep straight on;
The men will, at the word,
- Advance the right shoulder, and take
Direct route for the line;
This they will do at double quick,
And march, 'till they opine
- That with the Sergeant they are up;
From him the step they take,
155. Their eyes they turn direct in front,
And line of battle make.
156. The rear rank will be sure to keep
Their proper place throughout,
Arriving with front rank in line,
At the same time, about.
157. When all the men have reached the line,
"Guide, left," will be the word;
158. The Second Sergeant, to front rank
Will go, soon as 't is heard.
159. When from the left flank this move's made,
"Guide, right," is the direction;
Then, on the Covering Sergeant, you
Will make your line's correction.
160. In column, thus, by company,
In front, the left, or right,
The First and Second Sergeants are
The guides to keep you straight.
161. "By platoon, into line," we'll try;
This, from a flank, you see;
Above's command, with one word more,
And that, to "MARCH," will be.

162. By the same rules, the movement 's done,
As that above, we 've seen,
The First Lieutenant passing through
The opening, between

The two platoons, as they come up ;
If from right flank they come,
Around the *left* of his platoon—
If from the left 't is done.

163. At the command "*Guide left,*" or "*Right,*"
The guide of each platoon
Will see that he's in his right place ;
He can't get there too soon.

164. The right guide of the company,
For first platoon will serve ;
The left guide of the company,
The next in place preserve.

165. Thus, in a column, by platoon,
One guide you have, to each,
On the left flank, if right in front ;
If left, the right he'll reach.

166. The file closers of each platoon,
Their places still maintain,
In all the movements we go through,
As in the line the same.

168. These movements we must often try,
From marching, as from halt,
That perfect we may sometime be,
And move without a fault.

170. In marching by the flank, we'll try—
Support arms? Yes ; and when
We 're marching in the line, 't will be,
Right shoulder, now and then.

71. The company being at a halt,
In line of battle, now,
By wheeling, we will try and see,
How to platoons we go.
72. Command—"By platoon, right wheel, MARCH,"
Lieutenant will pass 'round
The left; then front of the centre
Of his platoon, he 's found.

The Captain, front of first platoon,
At once will take his post;
First Sergeant takes the Captain's place,
73. And there he will stand fast.

Right front rank man, of each platoon,
To the right now will face;
About where left of each platoon,
Will come when wheeled, is place

For them to stand, until the wheels
Almost to them are made;
174. When "*Platoon, halt,*" will be command,
And nothing more is said

Till the two guides their stations take,
On left of each platoon,
75. When chiefs, two paces outside them,
Station themselves. This done,

76. "*Left, Dress,*" will then be the command,
And after "*Front,*" the chief
Of each platoon will place himself,
Or rather, to be brief,

78. Will stand two paces to the front,
• In centre of platoon;
And now, that this thing we have learned,
To *left wheel* we will turn.

We do not stay till we get back
 To line, from the platoon,
 But, to facilitate our work,
 We are in line, assume.

- The command, for this movement, now,
 179. "*By platoon, left wheel*," is,
 And "**MARCH**." The rules, to make the move,
 You surely cannot miss.

180. The *left front* man, of each platoon,
 Round to the left, will face;
 181. The guides of each platoon, in this,
 On *right* will take their place.

The chiefs of each platoon, in this,
 Take places as before;
 The guide is on the right, you know;
 And this move now is o'er.

183. Again we are in line, suppose;
 Now, to the right we'll break,
 184. "*By platoon, right wheel—MARCH*," the word;
 This move you back, did make.

185. At paragraph 172,
 See *Right wheel, by platoon*,
 Only that here, the pivot man
 Marks time, and will conform

- To movement of the marching flank;
 And, when the wheel's most made,
 186. "*Forward*," and "**MARCH—guide left**"'s the word
 Immediately obeyed.

Straight to your front, you now will go,
 The step, that of quick time;
 The guides, on left of each platoon,
 Their places I assign.

7. Your elbows touching to the left,
Just lightly—as you're taught;
The step, you carefully will see,
Is not too long or short.

6. Your company is broken
To right, as I have spoken;
And now, we'll try and march in any way we
please;
The order that, at first,
Upon your ears will burst,
7. Is, "*Column forward, guide left—MARCH*"—'t is
done with ease.

The leading guide will fix
His gaze on stones or sticks,
Or some two points in range, exact in his direction;
By guidance in this way,
You'll quickly see, he may
Keep his line straight and true, without other
correction.

8. Step steadily and firm;
All feet, as they come down,
Striking the ground exact, with guide and all the
line;
Your elbows will abide,
Just touching, toward the guide,
While directly to the front, your gaze you will
confine.

The man that's next the guide,
Be careful he don't stride
More than the eight-and-twenty inch I've above
set down;
But give him elbow room;
You never will presume
To crowd upon your guide, as you are march-
ing on.

200. Meantime, this leading guide,
 The rules that I prescribe
For him to keep the points, and the cadence of
 the step;
 He'll ever bear in mind—
 Since thus he'll always find
His ranks are all in order, and the direction kept.
201. The guide that is behind him,
 If in his place, you'll find him
Following the knapsack of the guide that goes
 ahead;
 His distance from him, won't
 Exceed his platoon's front;
Nor greater must it be, as I before have said.
202. If, like a stupid fool,
 He should forget this rule,
And lose or gain in distance; he will not make
 a jump;
 But his step graduate,
 Till distance, accurate,
Again he has acquired—and proved himself a
 trump.
203. If, by gross inattention,
 (This thing I would not mention,
Only that such faults are very reprehensible),
 He swerves to left or right,
 He'll strive, with all his might,
To gain place in march, by change almost in-
 sensible.
204. If chief or guides neglect
 These rules, they must expect
Uncertainties in marching—in short, every evil
 Their men will march awry—
 Their guides be nowhere nigh
Their proper place or step. In short, they raise
 the d—l.

205. If guides' steps are too long,
Or short, or don't conform
To principles of the step, we studied back, you
know;

206. Or, if they should neglect
To keep their points correct,
Your lines will all be crooked, and wavering
you'll go.

You must remember, all;
No point, however small,
But on your mind must be impressed, ere to the
wars you go;
Not Wellington, nor Nap.,
Nor any other chap,
If you neglect these rules, in war could put you
through.

212. To change direction, now,
In marching, we'll see how;
You're marching with the right in front, the
guides on your left flank;
To properly do this,
'Twill never be amiss,
That markers should be station'd where first
you'll wheel the rank.

213. As you are marching by
This marker, guide will try
To so direct his march, as barely the breast to
touch

214. Of the marker; then the word,
"Right wheel," and "MARCH," is heard;
In this wheel, the pivot man will take his steps
in such

A way, that he'll conform
To what the guides perform,
And gain ground by making steps of full nine
inches long.

He'll lightly feel the man
That's on his left. He can
Thus make a curve, and keep his ranks from ever
moving wrong.

Now, this thing being done,
216. "Forward" and "MARCH" will come;
All of which we, most carefully, have studied
before;
Turn and see "Soldier's School,"
To find out the rule,
Number 398, and along there, some more.

217. Leading guide will now take,
And his march regulate,
By sighting some objects—as before we have
known;

218. Now the second platoon,
Will reach wheeling spot soon,
And careful repeat what to first platoon has been
shown.

219. When to the left you wheel,
Touch to the right, you'll feel;

220. And, by means just inverse to the last we've
been through;

When this you've conducted,
As I have instructed,

221. The command will be given, "*Guide left*"—it is
true.

222. In School of the Soldier,
Remember, I told you
About changing direction in double quick time:
See 404,
As since there is the law
For making that movement—as I've writ in my
rhyme.

24. See 402,
For what you will do
When *turning* (not wheeling) you will have to
perform;
 25. Then each sub-division
Will move with precision,
And turn just in place, as their leaders have done.
 26. Each chief will take care,
His division is square
With the line of direction, without negligence;
With this view, he will face
Right around in his place,
Soon as platoons before him their wheelings
commence.
 27. You will readily see,
How bad it will be,
Should pivots of any division not clear
Just the true wheeling point;
Thus your ranks you disjoint,
And awkward and clumsy, your wheelings ap-
pear.

Eleven inches, or nine,
Just according to time
In which you are marching, will length of step be
That first man will take,
All these wheelings to make,
And in line of direction come accurately.
 28. "Column—HALT," at command,
In the place you will stand,
That you may chance to be in when this word
is said.
If you've marched properly,
Just right you will be;
Thus proving that proper attention you've paid.
-

234. If your place you have lost,
 Gone too slow or too fast,
 And at *halt* you attempt a correction to make,
 That fault of your own
 On some other rank 's thrown,
 And others thus suffer from your clumsy mistake;

235. Having now made a halt,
 And corrected the fault;
 That is, presuming that a fault you have found,
 You will get into line
 By a left wheel, this time,
 The details of which I'll proceed to expound.

236. At first, to "*Left Dress*,"
 Which done with success,

239. "*Left, into line, wheel*," and to "*MARCH*," I command;

The guides stand in place,
 While to a left face,
 The front man on the left of each platoon will stand,

The platoons will wheel,
 On the same principle
 As wheels from a halt—seen at 194;
 When the platoons appear
 To the line to be near,

240. "*Platoon, HALT*," I command, when you stand as before.

241. First Lieutenant will now,
 As a file closer, go
 Round the left, and in rear of the line take his place;

242. The Captain will repair
 To the right of line; there

243. Will command you, at once, to come to "*Right Dress*."

245. Now, then, "FRONT" is the word
Most likely to be heard,
246. And "*Guides, Posts,*" will follow—if I judge
aright;
The Sergeants, one and two,
Then to their places go—
And now you are ready in line to show fight.
247. When the left is in front,
And we happen to want
To form, to the right, in line of the battle;
248. "*Right, into line, wheel,*" and
To "MARCH," is the command,
In the doing of which there's no trouble at all.
- Then "*Platoon, HALT*" 's the word,
That after will be heard,
249. When from line of battle the platoon is paces
three;
Platoon second will halt,
And if chief's not in fault,
Resumed as file closer his place will then be.
- Captain will quickly run,
When this command is done,
To the point where the left of the company will
rest;
- And as he then will stand,
250. "*Left, DRESS,*" he will command,
And thus the alignment will be put to the test.
- Now that you're all aligned,
Your places well defined,
251. The next command will "FRONT," be, and
"*Guides, Posts,*" afterward.
252. Both these you know so well,
I need not on them dwell,
But will trust to your remembering what you've
so often heard.
-

- Then you'll halt, as before,
Nor from your places stir,
But this time "*Left, Dress,*" is the word of command;
253. "FRONT," will then follow next,
But do not be perplexed
254. If "*Guides, Posts,*" I expect you'll at once understand.
- You'll remember I've said,
In what back you have read,
How essential it is each platoon should preserve
255. Exact wheeling distance;
That in no circumstance,
From true line of battle it should one fraction swerve.
257. You have, back, heard me state,
(You'll see 238,)
About wheeling in marching, and all that, you know;
So, if I repeat here,
All that there does appear,
My book to the dogs you would certainly throw.
- If each lesson you'll learn
As you're going along,
I shall seldom be pained by referring you back;
But I have, now and then,
Back to turn you, my men,
Lest in reading before, you have been somewhat slack.
260. Without making a halt,
And without any fault,
You may come into line by the left wheel, you'll see;
261. 'T is by "*Platoons, left wheel,*"
And to "*MARCH.*" I appeal
To the dullest among you, can aught plainer be!

Now, the wheel being made,
 262. "*Forward, MARCH,*" will be said,
 And a "*Guide, right,*" (or "*left,*") as you happen
 to be;
 Then you'll strike the old gait,
 With a step twenty-eight
 Inches long, and you 're right, as you'll very
 soon see.

263. On the side of the guide,
 Your touch will abide—
 Only elbows, you know; there, that's all correct;
 Then, 't will be great relief,
 If your sergeants and chief,
 Their places in line will always recollect.

265. You're now marching in line,
 And it is my design
 To "*break into platoons,*" and reform company;
 The First Lieutenant, now,
 Round to the front will go,

266. And direct his platoon to "*mark time,*" you will
 see.

267. Being done, "*MARCH*" is heard,
 Then, without other word,
 First platoon marches on, in the line, as it was;
 Now then, to the left flank,
 Passing by the front rank,

268. Covering Sergeant will go, without any pause.

269. First Lieutenant will seek
 To direct "*Right, oblique,*"
 And "*MARCH,*" as soon as the first platoon has
 passed;
 Now to make their steps short,
 Will be his men's first thought,
 Lest in getting to column they move up too fast.

- They'll so manage their pace,
That exact wheeling space
270. They'll have, ere Lieutenant gives order to
ward,"
Adding "MARCH," at the time,
That the guide of his men
Covers guide that's ahead, and with him
accord.
271. When the left is in front,
By the same way you won't
Get into platoons, unless you are perverse;
But platoons first and second,
If rightly I've reckoned,
Change motions, thus forming by means ju
verse.
- In this case, the left guide
Changes to the right side
Of platoon the second, while right guide
stay
On first platoon's right,
This being the site
Where he stands when in line of the b
always.
273. You're now on the go
In platoons, you know,
And to form back in line, desirable seems;
274. "*First platoon, right oblique,*,"
While the second will keep,
276. After "MARCH," going straight ahead; by
means,
'Twill catch up with the first,
And when there, almost,
The Captain will command the platoon in
charge
To "*Mark time,*" and then
Their obliquing is done,
And into line they will shortly emerge.

280. When the left is in front,
 The Captain then won't
 Give the command of *forward*, as he's done be-
 fore ;
 But the Lieutenant, will,
 The movement to fulfill ;
 And the Captain adds "*MARCH*," when the move-
 ment is o'er.
283. If too long you should dwell,
 On the marking time, well
 (To the column in rear, these remarks I address,)
 You will readily see,
 From your place you will be,
 When obliquing is finished; you thus make a
 mess.
284. Your steps you'll not shorten,
 Platoons to be brought in,
 Too much, or the very old Harry you'll raise;
 And platoons in your rear,
 You will throw out of gear,
 Make them gain or lose distance; so the book
 says.
285. Should you oblique too much,
 (Should you make any such
 Intolerable blunder, I should be ashamed;)
 An obliquing then back,
 You'd at once have to take,
 Get in place as you could, and be very much
 blamed.
286. Now the chief of platoon,
 When obliquing is done,
 Has to face to his men, if he would succeed
 To bring them in their place,
 Without steps to retrace,
 Since their march he can't see, with the back of
 his head.
-

287. When with companies two,
 All this movement you do,
The ones that march forward, true time and step
 keep ;
 And they'll always do this,
 Not an inch of ground miss,
Even though they come close to the ones that
 oblique.
288. 'T is the last grain of sand,
 Breaks the camel's back, and
Little errors of steps, throw divisions awry ;
 So each man must take care,
 And of errors beware,
'T is easily done, if you only will try.
289. Such a case may arise,
 As that, to your surprise,
Your road, or your path, somewhat narrow
 will be ;
 Yet you want to keep on
 In platoons. Well, 't is done
By breaking off files to the rear, comfortably.
290. Such a case, we'll suppose,
 Then, as every one knows,
"Two files from" the "left, to" the "rear," I'll
 command ;
 (It may be, from the right,)
 But this case I will cite,
At first, till the movement you do understand.
 At the "MARCH" you'll commence,
 If you have any sense,
(To the files that break off, this statement is
 made,)
 To mark time, till the rest,
 That were marching abreast,
Have cleared your right flank, by their march-
 ing ahead.

Outer shoulder advance,
And you will come at once,
To your place, in the rear of the ranks that have
passed,
The odd number must be,
Back of third file you see,
While in rear of the fourth, the even is cast.

92. Now, if still you 've not room,
To march on by platoon,
Two files, more or less, we will break off again;
Then the first we broke off
Will move far enough
To the right for these others to places attain

93. On their left; thus you see,
Front, diminished, will be.
Should you choose, more files you can send to
the rear;
It is an ugly move,
And it's one I don't love,
Since to march by the flank, does plainer appear.

But now, since it is done,
Back to line we must come,
"*Two files into line,*" and then "*MARCH,*" is com-
mand,
When right back into place,
You will your steps retrace;
That is, files from the rear that are on the left
hand;

95. While two files that remain,
Will then step back again,
And will cover the files where they were before,
The two files now in line,
Did commence to mark time,
They'll go to the left, just enough, and no more.

297. This movement you can do
 With four files, or with two,
Or with six—or with eight, for the matter of
 that;
 But, no longer I'll dwell
 On what you know so well,
Since, as I said above, I dislike it, somewhat.

 The man who first practised
 Such villainous tactics,
As to break files to rear, by me is abhorred;
 If he e'er lost his breath,
 By a natural death,
The gallows lost him, and he his reward.

 I will just tell the guide,
 Who is on the left side,
Or the right, or wherever the files are broke
 from,
 On front rank he will close,
 As to rear the file goes;
When they come into line, he will have to make
 room.

805. From side of direction,
 You'll make your selection
Of files, to break off to the rear, in these moves;
 That the whole of your ranks,
 From the front to the flank,
May easily pass, as I've hinted above.

806. March the column in *route*,
 Now, without a doubt,
It is time we were taught the way to perform;
 Steps one hundred and ten
 In a minute, take, when
To the route-step the column you've called on to
 turn.

08. *"Column forward—Guide left,"*
 With the *"route step,"* then shift
 Your arms as you please, when to that is an-
 nexed
 The word *"MARCH."* Then, you know,
 As you please you will go,
 Nor with cadence of step be a moment per-
 plexed.
 Arms at will, as you've seen
 At two hundred nineteen,
 In *"School of the Soldier,"* when Manual was
 taught;
 Then your rear rank will so
 Time their steps, that although
 They keep moving, yet from front rank they'll
 be brought,
 About twenty-eight inch,
 Or thirty at a pinch,
 But enough on each other's heels not to tread;
 Thus you'll march as you please,
 The book says *"at ease,"*
 But see that your ranks don't get intermixed.
09. When you change direction,
 At Captain's suggestion,
 All you have to look out for is to keep near your
 place;
 While, instead of the nine
 Inch step, it is fourteen,
 That the pivot-man keeps, to preserve proper
 space.
 In long marches, the route-
 Step you will be about,
 If your Captain or Colonel, deems it to be wise;
 You can then sing a song,
 Bradbury's *"Marching Along,"*
 Should you chance to know it, or have *"free*
 copies."

810. When to pass to cadence-
 Step 't is time to commence,
 Your Captain will first get your arms all in place,
 "*Quick time*—*MARCH*," he 'll then say,
 When you 'll close right away,
811. Reduce twenty-eight to sixteen inches space.
812. When in marching you go
 To the route-step, (you know
 That command, before, was meant from a halt,)
818. "*Route-step*—*MARCH*," is the word,
 And as soon as that's heard,
 The rear rank will shorten their steps, without
 fault;
- So that one score and eight
 Inches distance shall make,
 'Twixt the front and rear rank; as you did before,
 I have no need to tell
 That again 't is "*Arms will*,"
 And in all things conform to what back we went
 o'er.
814. It perhaps will occur,
 When at route-step you are,
 That something makes it needful you march by
 the flank;
- Such a case we 'll suppose,
 Thus, the command then goes—
 Next stanza you'll find it, my pupils gallant.
815. "*Company, by the right*
 Flank, file left," I indite,
 Adding "*MARCH*," when rest of command you
 appear
 To most properly know,
 When to right face you go,
 Then wheel to the left, and keep on that career.

Each file that comes up
Without making a stop,
Will wheel, as the Captain and right guide have
done;
All these files in your rear,
When their places appear,
They'll bob into them, in right place every one.

16. All these things you will do
From the *route-step*, you'll know,
Exactly as though you're marching by a band;
So if not just in place,
Don't get so much space
That at once in true place you can't readily
stand.

Should you break in platoon,
It will certainly seem,
That Lieutenants and Captains know what to do;
Take their place on the flank,
While to the rear rank
Of the different platoons, the Sergeants will go.

20. This is the direction,
To break into section,
When you're marching in column, by platoon,
I say
This, "*Break into sections*,"
You'll see, by reflection,
The movement's the same as for platoons, always.

These sections, you will see,
Then commanded will be,
By Captain and Ensign, and Lieutenant first;
The case being urgent,
Your Orderly Sergeant,
Command the fourth section, most certainly
must.

821. Into sections you 'll form,
 When you 're marching along
 At no other time but when column's in route;
 In manœuvres, never
 This movement go over,
 Since it will not help in what then you 're about.
822. When we wish to re-form,
 Back to platoon to come,
823. "*Form platoons*," and "*MARCH*," is the word will
 be said;
 Now each chief of platoon
 To its front quickly 'll come,
 And back to platoons their commands they will
 lead,
- This movement corresponds
 To the one from platoons,
 When company front you 're attempting to form;
 And it being complete,
 Chiefs of left will retreat
 To their file-closing place, in the rear, as they
 can.
- To sections we 'll not break,
 Neither such a move make,
 If the front of platoons is less than twelve men;
 Nor send files to the rear
 So that less will appear
 Than six files in platoon, when this thing is done.
825. By the flank you can go
 From the sections, also,
 You remember, at file right (or left) how to move;
 The movement is as plain—
 In fact, it is the same—
 As at 814, I have shown you above.

326. When to right flank you come,
 And you know it is done
 By doubling your files, so that four march
 abreast,
 Now sometimes it will be,
 Most essential, you'll see,
 To march in two files, from the road's narrow-
 ness.

The command, then, for this,
 To be crowned with success,
 327. Is, "*In two ranks, undouble files,*" adding
 "MARCH,"
 The odd numbers march on,
 While the even shorten
 Their step, and oblique then, their places to
 fetch—

In the rear of the odd;
 And as forward they plod,
 The rear rank to the left a step strive to gain;
 Touch of elbow retake
 With the front rank—they make
 This side-step at once—and so there they remain.

328. If you're marching along
 By left flank, you'll go wrong
 If the *odd* do not shorten their step, so's to get
 In the even men's rear;
 It is then very clear
 That the even march on, and straight forward
 keep.

329. When to get back in four
 Ranks, again we desire,
 "*In four ranks, double files,*" and "MARCH," is
 command;
 This is done just as when
 By the flank you first came,
 Turn to 136, if you don't understand.

RHYMED TACTICS.

31. These movements you 'll go through
 At the *double-quick*, too,
And in time not "Eclipse" nor the "Childers"
 will vie
 With you in your speed;
 Seven minutes, indeed,
For eleven hundred yards, is time, if you 'll try—
32. When to *halt* you are told,
 From this route-step, you 'll hold
Your arms at a shoulder, and *close up*, my man—
 The true distance to get,
 And you will not omit
To properly form, if you know what I mean.
33. It 's a very good plan
 To maintain, if you can,
The mouth of your piece pointing up in route-
 step,
 Lest the charge might go off,
 And some poor comrade suf-
Fer death, from the way that your muzzle you
 keep.
34. Now you 're drawn up in line,

336.

By the side of front man,
Ere the movement's began,
He will take his own place the *march* to conduct;
The two guides will stand fast
'Till the whole line is past;
In marching, no part of the distance deduct,

But around the right guide,
Every file has to stride,
Then along the front rank their march they'll
direct;
When to left guide they've come,
That is, the first two men,
The Captain gives orders to "HALT," I expect;

337.

Adding "FRONT," and "*Right, Dress.*"
Being done, I profess
That the counter-march movement you have got
through.

340.

The two guides will then shift
To the right and the left,
Passing front of the ranks as that thing they do.

It is thus, you will see,
You've turned 'round perfectly,
Standing, when you've form'd, just where you
stood before;
But your left and your right
Have now changed places quite,
And you face t'other way, of which you'll be
sure.

341.

From platoons, this you'll do,
By the same rules; you go

342. To a counter-march, when your left is in front,
By exact inverse means,
As is readily seen,

If you study the rules, and neglect them you
won't.

43. In column by platoon,
When you 'll come into line,
44. "*On the right into line*," and "*Guide right*,"
command ;
When this 's heard, both your guides
Will shift to right side,
Then straight forward march, as you 'll unde-
stand.
47. When you 've just the right space,
'Twixt your right and the place
Where your line 'd best be formed, you 're led to
suppose,
48. "*Right line—MARCH*," will be said
By your Captain ahead—

852. The guide of his platoon,
 Down to its left will run,
 Taking place exact in line with other guide;
 Now, after the "*Right, Dress,*"
 First Lieutenant will pass
 Round to the place where he belongs, and there
 abide.
855. Now, "*FRONT*" will be the word;
 So soon as that is heard,
356. "*Guides, Posts,*" will be command, that you will
 have to do;
 Both guides will then return
 To their places in the line,
 And forming in column, again we have got
 through.
- When marching left in front,
 You make this move, you won't
 Be at a loss to know it is done by inverse ways;
 The second platoon, then,
 Forms first in line, and when
 'Tis formed, the first platoon comes into line and
 stays.
859. Being now formed in line,
 We will, for discipline,
 Get into one rank, our front to spread out;
 The command then will be—
 (Hum!—ah, ah—let me see—
360. "*In one rank form company—MARCH,*" without
 doubt.
- The right guide, in his place,
 Will make a right face,
361. And at *march*, will step off, the front rank to
 prolong;
362. Then the files follow on,
 By one file at a time,
 Front men make right face, while the rear takes
 a turn

Exactly in place where
 His front-rank men turned ; then
 Directions you have till the last man steps off,
 And then "HALT" will be said ;
 If attention you 've paid,
 At word "FRONT" you 'll find you 've gone just
 far enough.

363. Rear of line two paces,
 File-closers take places,
 And you 're ready now for what next may turn up;
 364. So, to get back again,
 May be our wisest plan ;
 We 'll attempt it at once, without making stop.
 "In two ranks form company,"
 Your precaution will be,
 Then, "*Company, Right FACE,*" and "*MARCH,*"
 you must do ;
 365. To a right face, all come,
 Save *right guide* and *one* man
 Who 's next to him. At *front* they remain till
 all 's through.
 366. All your files you will make,
 By being careful to take
 Your old places in line, in the following way ;
 Then each alternate scamp*
 Will step in the rear rank,
 As he reaches his place, without any delay.
 367. Now that movement will be
 Done habitually
 By right of companies ; but case might arise
 That by left we must do 't ;
 If you did but know it,
 Face about—make the rear the front—bless your
 eyes.

* Parbleu ! c'est un tres mauvais nom.
 But without it the rhyme wouldn't come.

368. Each man then will perform,
What else would be wrong,
Left guide doing what, back was done by the
right;
369. When the ranks are in place,
Right about you will face,
To a proper front thus; all hands I invite
371. Into *four* ranks. Now, then,
From the line we will come:
- 372, "*In four ranks form company.*" "*Company, left
FACE;*" when this you have done,
And in four ranks have come,
As in School of Soldier, I'll give you a lift
373. Well over this trouble.
Your files don't undouble,
As you face to the front *without special command.*
Every four that step off,
Will leave room enough,
Say five inches, for files that are on either hand.
374. The file-closers now stand,
The fourth rank behind;
376. Our four ranks to two again we'll reduce:
"*In two ranks form comp'ny;*"
The same words, you see,
As back in these rhymes I've had to produce.
- "*Company, Right FACE,*" now,
Our steps to retrace now,
377. Which command hearing, the left guide will
stand fast;
The rest to a right face
Will then come round apace,
378. And at "*MARCH,*" they'll retake the ground just
lost.

378. In this way they do it,
 Since now we've come to it,
 Right guide, prolongation of front rank step off,
 And the leading four men,
 Stepping off at same time,
 The others stand fast, until there's room enough

To form two ranks, in space,
 'Twixt themselves and the place
 That their leaders have reached, while they're
 standing still;
 When the next four men start
 Thus performing their part,
 Then the next, and the next, and so on until

- Last file has true distance;
 Then, barring a mischance,
 379. *Company*, HALT," with a "FRONT," you're likely
 to hear,
 When in two ranks you'll come
 To the front, as you've done
 Say ten thousand times, or that number near.

380. In line, we will suppose,
 We are marching. Here goes,
 To get into four ranks, without halting at all.
"In four ranks form comp'ny,"
 After which it will be,
"By the left, double files," and "MARCH," I shall
 call.

381. The *left* guide and left file
 Will go forward awhile,
 And the rest to the left will make a half face,
 The odd numbers, behind
 Even numbers, will find
 Their place; even and odd I thus interlace.

Now this thing to achieve,
 If I'm right, I believe,
Rear rank, even numbers, their steps will shorten
 Odd numbers to permit,
 Their right places to get,
 And thus the right place you soon will be
 caught in.

Now in marching oblique,
 The right place all must keep,
 Abreast of the guide, and your steps so arrange,
 (When you 've got in ranks four)
 That each man may be sure,
 When he's faced to the *front*, that he's in right
 range.

When each reaches right place,
 To make a half *right* face,
 That again to the *front* their march they'll di-
 rect,
 Touch of elbows they'll take
 To the left—no mistake;
 But the movement's complete, I shrewdly suspect.

382. Now to get back again
 To the two ranks, the same
 As we were before this last move we began,
 "*In two ranks form comp'ny*,
 "*By the right*," it will be,
 "*Undouble files—MARCH*," just as well as you
 can.

383. The left guide and left file,
 Will continue now still,
 To march straight to front, as they've done all
 the time;
 While the rest of the men,
 To half right face, again
 Will come, and obliquing, will approach to line.

So soon as *second* file,
From *left*, in this style,
Has gained to the right all the ground that they
 need
For the left file to form
Into two ranks, they'll come
To *front* by half face to the left—yes, indeed.

Now left file, with success,
Forms to two ranks—and thus
The movement progresses from the left to the
 right;
Second four men will form
In two ranks, when there's room,
Then the third, and the fourth—through com-
 pany quite.

884. I have no need to tell,
Since you all know it well,
That when left is in front, commands are inverse;
Nor will you think it cool,
If the Company School
Being done, for a while, I propose, we disperse.

Instructions for Skirmishers.

To move yourselves rapidly,
 In any advance;
 Retreat to make steadily,
 In all circumstance;
 To astonish your foemen,
 By scattering fire
 In their ranks, when they don't know
 Where the deuce you are;
 To know each sound of bugle,
 (Going to-toot, to-toot,)
 Telling you, plainer than words,
 What you'll be about;
 To keep assaulters at bay,
 Until in a line,
 Your own friends to get formed,
 Have plenty of time;
 And, in short, to be living
 The romance of war,
 Be the Nimrods of battle,
 Is what Skirmishers are.

1. To such rules as always will give
 Commander the means of moving
 In any direction, so quick
 His place he's ever improving,
 The Skirmisher's Drill is confined.
 2. It never can be expected,
 When dodging thro' woods and thro' brakes,
 Any way to be protected,
 That exact all movements you'll make,
 This thing you'll all bear in mind.
-

8. When thrown out, to clear the way for,
And protect, the main bodys advance,
Regulate your moves by this corps,
That by greatest of vigilance,
They ever well covered will be.
4. All bodies of skirmishers, will
Have reserve, that keeps in the rear,
That they'll never call on, until
Too mighty the foe shall appear ;
The strength of reserve will vary.
5. If body thrown out be quite near
To the whole corps brought in the field
A small force reserved in the rear,
Is sufficient their movements to shield.
The duties of reserve are these :

To fill vacant places in line,
Bring powder and shot, and relieve
The wounded or exhausted men,
And every assistance to give.
Each chance to assist they will sei
6. Should corps be such distance away,
You can't call upon them for help
Without an unusual delay,
If for succor you have to yelp,
Another reserve is required.

Whole companies now should be sent,
And these be employed to sustain,
Where the danger is imminent,
And skirmishers chance to be slain
Faster than by you is desired.

7. When only small reserve is used,
 In rear, one hundred and fifty
 Paces off, they will be amused,
 By work of front men, so thrifty.
 While, when large reserve's employed,

Four hundred paces they will stand,
 All the men to keep out of sight,
 Most strenuously I command,
 Only keeping eye to the fight,
 Till called upon it to enjoy.

8. The movements, you will execute
 At *quick* or *double quick* time,
 But seldom it is you are put
 To the run, deranging your line,
 Confusing yourselves, scattered so.

9. Your pieces you take as you like;
 0. To bugle-calls always attend;
 1. But don't move too quick; you must wait
 Till bugler, of sound makes an end;—
 Look out now that these things you do.

2. When rapidly you're told to move,
 Take care that you husband your strength,
 All chance for protection improve,
 Come coolly where you're sent at length,
 Or never you will have success.

Your aim, by your fleeing's deranged,
 If you go too fierce to the fray;
 And in fighting it would not be strange,
 If you failed to get back that day;
 Or, if back, perhaps weaponless.

DEPLOYMENTS.

15. Forward and by the flank,
We skirmishers deploy :
16. The first is, when the rank
We propose to employ

As skirmishers, are back
Of line where they must be,
Before the field they take,
Where warm work they will see.

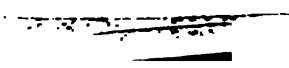
By flank they are thrown out,
When on that line they stand;
So you can guess about
Where you are, by command.

17. Platoon and sections here,
The same are, as we've seen
In studies we've been o'er,
Page first and this between.

But here, you all must know
Your exact place in line,
Must know your comrades, too,
And you be known by them.

18. On left or centre file,
Or right, or any one
That chances to be best,
Deploying may be done.

So thus you'll quickly see,
No kind of ground can bother,
But forward rapidly,
You'll go, some way or other.



3. Whenever it may chance,
Alignments you *can* keep
In making your advance,
o do so don't forget.

But this thing to attain,
You'll *give up no good place*
Where you can *best* remain
The enemy to face.

Keep shady all you can,
Behind some stump or bush,
Then you'll pick off your men,
And on to glory push.

4. The intervals between
The different groups of men,
That you'll have intervene,
Can't well be told, till when

The ground where you're to fight
We get near to—you know;
But once we get a sight,
We'll tell what space you go.

Though, as a general rule,
The groups shall be apart.
Some two-score paces. Well,
That's quite enough, at start;

While comrades will be found
Some five apart, or so;
This is for open ground;
From *mutual sight don't go!*

1. When a battalion's front,
You're called upon to cover,
To do the thing, you won't
Just space of ground go over

That their front occupies,
 But *half the interval*,
 On either side that lies,
 You're looked to, to conceal.

This move is to avoid
 A flank attack, you see;
 When thus you are deploy'd,
 Their wings must covered be.

TO DEPLOY FORWARD.

22. From *halt*, or *on the move*,
 Commands are just the same;
 Your valor now we'll prove,
 The Captain will exclaim—

"*First platoon Skirmishers*,"
 (The "*as*" here's understood)
 "*On left file intervals*"
 ("*Take*," had I room, I should

Write here.) Then he will add,
 "*MARCH*;" sometimes *double qu*
 (Ah! won't it now be sad,
 If twice he has to speak!)

23. Now, at the first command,
 Your Lieutenant the First,
 Front second platoon stand,
 The Ensigns, with the First;

Fifth Sergeant then will go
 Front of the *first* platoon;
 He'll place himself there, so
 'Twixt sections he will come.

Soon as the move begins,
Fourth Sergeant takes his place
 On *left* of that platoon,
 Soon as he finds right space.

The Captain, to this *fourth*,
 The point will indicate,
 When he 'll direct his march.
 So far, we've got all straight.

1. The *second* platoon now,
 Directed by its chief,
Three paces *back* will go ;
 (That back step 's always brief ;)

The *Second* Sergeant, then,
 On its *left* flank will stand ;
 The *Third*, to *right* will come,
 And wait there for command.

Now, when the Captain speaks
 That "MARCH," that's down above,
Left group (*Fourth* Sergeant's,) starts
 Toward point shown to move.

5. The other groups of fours,
 Left shoulder throwing out
 Obliquely, double quick,
 At once take up their route.

They'll move along so fast,
 That to the right they'll gain
 Score of paces, at least—
 (The right distance between

Each group and that which runs,
 The next on its left hand ;)
 Which done, each group will come
 To *front*, without command ;

Conforming to the gait
 As well as direction ●
 Of *Left* group, marching straight,
 When movement was begun.

On new line, you will get
 One group after another ;
 And the *right* guide will come
 With right group, I infer.

26. The left guide having reached
 The place where line's left *halts*,
 The men that make the groups
 Get ready for assaults.

To do this, they will take
 Five paces interval ;
 Rear 's on the left of front ;
 (This rule is general.)

28. The sergeants now will go,
 Two paces to the rear ;
 What the Lieutenant 'll do,
 In next verse shall appear :

Seeing his men aligned,
 All properly and straight,
 He 'll take his place behind,
 Say, paces twenty-eight,

Or any where along,
 From thirty to twenty ;
 A bugler 'll with him come,
 If buglers are plenty ;

Four men from the reserve
 He takes, as body-guard ;
 For men that thus shall serve,
 The best ones are preferred.

When the advance begins,
First Lieutenant will face
His platoon, to the rear,
And bring them to such place

0. That they shall always be
One and a half hundred
Paces in rear of the
Platoon that goes ahead;

And such a distance off
He'll keep them all the time.

1. The reserve will conform
To movements of the line.
2. Your bayonets will be,
In their scabbard retired;
A signal you will hear
When *fixing* is required.

Some eighty paces back,
The Captain takes his stand;
A bugler he'll not lack,
To echo each command;

He also has four men,
That from reserve he takes;
He keeps them near to him
In all the moves he makes.

Deployment may be made
On right of the platoon,
And on the centre file,
It often will be done.

- k. Right group of section left,
When "*centre*" is the word,
Under Sergeant the fifth,
Proceeds to march ahead;

While men, on either hand,
From that group radiate,
And as in line they stand,
Their distance regulate.

85. When nothing has been said
'Bout width of interval,
You'll twenty paces spread;
This is the principle.

The men that make the groups,
Just five paces apart
Will *always* keep themselves,
Nor from this rule depart;

86. If a whole company,
To skirmish are deployed,
And that quite near the line,
Reserves are not employed.

TO DEPLOY BY THE FLANK.

87. From a halt on the line,
Where you deploy this time,
We'll deploy by the flank.
The commands, to be frank,
Are like this:

1. "*Second platoon,*" you see,
"*As skirmishers*" will be;
2. "*By the right flank,*" you'll "*take*
Intervals." Do not make
Any miss;

88. And the "*MARCH,*" I will add,
Which, now when I have said,
First Lieutenant will take,
With a step wide awake,
His station;

That is, place, in the rear
Of the platoon, that here
We deploy. While the V
Sergeant soon, you must see,
Same platoon,

In the front, just one pace;
He must there find his place.
Third Sergeant, when there's room,
On its right coming soon,
Will receive

From the Captain, the point
Of direction he'll want.
First platoon will repeat,
What the second did back,
You perceive.

The *Fourth* Sergeant will go
To reserve's left flank, so
That the *First* may remain
On its right, just the same
As in line.

40. When you get the command
8. To "MARCH," right face you'll stand,
And start off, every one
But the left group of men,
(Do you see?)

The left group will stand fast,
Till the rest so far 've passed,
That to deploy they 've room,
When five paces they roam
Apart. (Eh?)

Second group, having gone
Twenty pace from left one,
T'ward the enemy'll face,
And deploy their five pace
Separate.

[REDACTED]

RHYMED TACTICS.

Then the third, and so on,
As in right place they come,
Turn their fronts to the foe;
Thus, the left group, all through,
Imitate.

First Lieutenant must keep,
By quick step, near the group
'Bout to halt, that he may
See that it does not stray
From right track.

When deployment's complete,
To the rear he will get,
Thirty paces or so.
The Sergeants are but two
Paces back.

The *first* platoon, you know,
Three paces back did go;
It will now *about face*,
And will march back a space,
Equal to

One hundred and a half
Paces back, is enough.
This distance they'll maintain,
'Till the whole move is done;—
Always so.

By *left* flank to deploy,
Same commands you employ,
Save that you substitute—
Put "*left*" where "*right*" was put,
In command,

"*Second platoon*" will now
"*As skirmishers*" please go;
"*By the right and left flank,*"
(From the centre that,) "*take*
Intervals."

You'll see, at 38,
Counsel elaborate,
For the officers' move,
When they hear the above
Orders, all.

Command "*MARCH*," next will come,
When *right* section; alone,
Comes to a *right face*,
And *left* section apace,
All but just

Its right group, takes *left face*,
And stands fast till there's space
For its men to spread out,
Their five paces about.
The rest must,

To the left and the right,
Go ahead, till there's quite
Twenty paces between
All the groups—as we've seen
Heretofore.

As each reaches its place,
It will make a right face,
Bringing front to the foe,
And separate men—do
As before.

The *Third* Sergeant, will be
Left of *right* file, while the
Second Sergeant will stand
On the *left* file's *right* hand,
In this move.

Lieutenant will look out
For the march of each group,
And when all right appear,
Take his place in the rear,
As above.

49. Deployments may be made
 On *any* group, indeed.
 When the Captain names group,
Fifth Sergeant will look out
 For his place,
 With the group that is nam'd;
 Other moves are the same
 As before have been taught.
50. Is whole company brought
 To skirmish,
 The directions for you
 Are the same you've been through
 In the last pages. Now,
 To the next thing we go,
 Which is this—

TO EXTEND INTERVALS.

51. This movement, which is employed to extend
 A line of skirmishers, already out,
 By principles the same, you'll understand,
 Is done, as are deployments all throughout.
52. The line of skirmishers is at a halt;
 The Captain wishes greater space to take,
 Lest the foe, making a sudden assault,
 Should outflank him, and thus should mischief
 make.
 He will command, "*By the left flank*"—(put in
 The number of paces that he may judge best,)
 Then, "*extend intervals*," and "*МАРШ*;" and
 then,
53. The group that's on the *right*, at this *stands*
 fast.
 The other groups that help to make the line
 Of skirmishers, at once make a left face,
 And march the distance Captain does assign,
 To make between the groups the proper space.

Back at the 40th paragraph, you're told
 Exactly how this movement you'll go through,
 Turn back there, and instructions you'll behold
 To teach you, in extending, what to do.

54. The men that make each group, will still pre-
 serve
 Five paces space between themselves; not
 more
 Nor less than that space, unless they observe
 The ground is such they must keep nearer.

For this rule, in *all* skirmishing, is right;
 In woods, or bush, or hilly ground, or plain,
 Your comrades you must *ever keep in sight*,
 Nor from their view a moment you'll remain.

When intervals to change, you may be told,
 To intervals of *groups* it does refer;
 With your own group the five paces you hold,
 As I have said above, also elsewhere.

55. The line of skirmishers is *marching* front,
 And to extend, essential seems to be,
 "*On the left group,*" (*so many paces*) now,
 With "*MARCH,*" Captain's commands are, cer-
 tainly.

56. Then, the *left* group, conducted by its guide,
 Continues toward the point of direction,
 The other groups, turned slightly toward their
 right,
 At *double quick*, complete this formation.

57. By principles the same, you can extend
 Your intervals, from *centre* of your line;
 There's but slight difference in the word com-
 mand,
 And to detail that here, 's not my design.
-

58. If, in extending intervals, it be
 Intended that the space on which you're
 form'd,
 By half as many, occupied shall be,
 And that those out, to line should be returned,
 The men of company, or of platoon,
 Which, as others come up, are to retire,
 Fall to the rear successively, as soon
 As the new comers take their place to fire.

TO CLOSE INTERVALS.

59. This movement, like the one we've just got
 through,
 Is done by principles of deployment.
60. If *halted*, and the thing we wish to do
 To bring the line to somewhat less extent,
*"By the right flank" (so many paces) "close
 Intervals—MARCH"*—with *double quick*, per-
 haps.
61. The *left* group will stand fast, every one knows,
 Others, toward the left will wend their steps.
 As each group reaches its new place in line,
 Toward the enemy, at once they'll face,
 And blaze away, to make up for lost time,
 Nor from their firing, without orders, cease.
62. If, in advance, the front we would curtail,
*"On the left group," (so many paces) "close
 Intervals—MARCH,"* command is, in detail,
 And thus, of too great front, we will dispose.
63. The *left* group, by its guide conducted still,
 Keeps *straight ahead*—no other order knows;
 The other groups, turned slightly toward the
 left,
 Obliquely march, the interval to close.

4. Upon the *centre*, or the *right*, we may
Curtail our front, as circumstance demands;
The principles are just the same, alway,
As those we 've seen, to close or to expand.
5. When intervals are closed with the intent
That *twice* as many men we 'll have in line,
The strength of line thus greatly to augment,
And keep the foe at bay a longer time,
The reinforcement will such way deploy,
Its movement to finish, at twenty paces
Direct in rear of the old company,
Then move in line as it shall be unmasked.
Reserves of both, behind the line unite,
Ready for any work they'll have to do
In progress of the skirmish or the fight.
Now—Closing Interval we have got through.
6. RELIEVE A COMPANY DEPLOYED AS SKIRMISHERS.
6. It now becomes our duty to relieve
The skirmishers, that so long we 've had out:
The *new* comp'ny will come up and achieve
Some one deployment that we've been about.
7. This, when complete, at *twenty paces rear*
Of the line, now so long time in the field,
8. They will advance some paces, to appear
Front of the company they're sent to shield.
The *old* line, then, has orders to retire,
Back to reserve, or in some other way,
But *not* till they're beyond the foemen's fire,
Will they, in groups of fours, themselves array.
9. If skirmishers are marching in *retreat*,
When the relief for them is order'd out,
They do *not* halt, but still their marching keep,
And form upon their own reserve, no doubt.

And the new company that we employ,
 To go to help off those now coming back,
 By some *flank* march 't is best they should de-
 ploy,
 To cover the retreat from foe's attack.

TO ADVANCE.

70. When a platoon or company, deployed
 As skirmishers, is marching by the front,
 Habitually in *centre* is their *guide* ;
 But a command for that you do not want.

If, on the contrary, I shall intend
 Your *guide* should stationed be, on *left* or
 right,
 For such a purpose, a special command,
After the *forward*, will be requisite.

71. When forward I may wish you to advance,
 "Forward," and "MARCH," will echo 'long the
 lines ;

72. The chiefs of sections give it utterance,
 And sergeants will repeat the word, sometimes.

73. At *first* command, up to the line there 'll come
 Three sergeants, who will take their stations
 thus :
First on the *right*, next on the left, and then,
Third in the *centre* stands—most valorous.

74. At the word "MARCH," the line moves to the
 front ;
 The guide, having received the point to reach,
 The skirmishers aligned upon this guide,
 Their intervals preserve—I do beseech.

75. The *chiefs* of sections, will march just *behind*
 Their sections, thus their movements to direct;
 76. The Captain, the whole line, will careful mind,
 And all the movement cautiously inspect.
 77. When the advance he thinks is great enough,
 To "HALT," he cries, which being understood,
 78. By chiefs and sergeants, with their voices rough,
 Will be repeated. Then care is bestowed

To see that the alignment is correct,
 Or as near so as the ground will allow ;
 But every man looks out that he'll protect
 Himself from shots that're coming from the
 foe.

This being done, the sergeants will retire
 Back to their places, in the rear of line;
 The Lieutenants, and the Captain, also,
 Go to their stations at just the same time.

79. When to *retreat* may necessary be,
 This—"In *retreat*"—will be the first com-
 mand ;
 80. The sergeants, what is coming, will foresee,
 And in their place for march will quickly
 stand.
 81. At the command to "MARCH," the skirmishers
 Directly in their places will turn round,
 March to the rear, if nothing interferes—
 But in their place in line be ever found.
 82. The officers and sergeants must maintain
 The best order ; (retreat is no dismay,
 Since 't has been said, that he who'd fight again,
 From present fight had better "run away.")

83. Then, when the Captain word to "HALT" shall
give,
84. The skirmishers will halt, and to front face;
85. The chiefs and sergeants, right off, will contrive,
When men are right, to find their proper place.

TO CHANGE DIRECTION.

86. If the commander of a company
Desires to change direction to the right,
"Right wheel," and "MARCH," (perhaps at *double quick*,
The movement you proceed to expedite.)
87. At the word *march*, the *right* guide will mark
time,
The *left* guide, move in circle to the right,
And that he properly may guide the line,
Toward the right guide he will turn his sight;
- The centre guide, his movements will conform
To the direction of the wheel he'd make;
To do so, his steps are but half as long
As those the left guide is obliged to take.
88. The skirmishers that serve to make the line,
Their length of step, by their place regulate,
From the *right* guide, who only must mark time
To *left*, who takes long strides—they graduate.
- They'll often glance their eyes t'ward *marching flank*,
To keep direction and due intervals;
Since guides and chiefs do anything but thank
The men found wrong—they'll call them criminals.

89. When the commander of the line shall wish
 The *direct* march to be resumed, he'll say,
 "*Forward*," and "*MARCH*"—there's nothing more
 than this—
 And *centre* guide proceeds to show the way.
91. Thus on you keep, directly to the front,
 Your proper intervals with care maintain,
 Until you get commanding word to "*HALT*,"
92. Then halt, of course—ready to fight again.
93. Change of direction to the left, is made
 By inverse means—the principle's the same
 As that we've just reviewed. There is, indeed,
 No cause that more than this I should explain.

TO MARCH BY THE FLANK.

96. "*By the right flank*—*MARCH*," you get command;
 97. At first, the sergeants place themselves on line,
 98. At *march*, the men at a right face will stand,
 And move at once, at quick or double time.

The *right* guide, placed beside the leading man,
 Conducts him to the point the Captain shows,
 The rest will follow after, as they can,
 Keep in a line and go as leader goes.

99. By the *left* flank, the skirmishes may go,
 By principles the same, and same command,
 Save that the *left*, for right, is said, you know,
 The left guide leading—face, to your left hand.
100. At the word "*HALT*," you'll halt, and then you'll
 face
101. Toward the enemy you have to fight;
 The officers and sergeants take their place
 In rear of line, and then you are all right.
- 11*

102. Conforming to the movements of the line,
 Reserve performs all movements that you
 make,
 Maintain their place in rear all the time,
 Ready at all times your places to take.
103. When chief of the *reserve* wants to advance,
 "Platoon forward—*guide left*," and "MARCH,"
 he'll say;
 And when to make retreat, he would commence,
 "In retreat—MARCH;"—"guide right," then
 you'll obey.
- When he shall give command to platoon, "HALT,"
 At once you'll face toward your enemy.
 All these commands, when powder once you've
 smelt,
 And read this book, you will do perfectly.
104. The bugle signals you will have to learn,
 And what they mean, and how the moves to
 make;
 Thus, at the sound of *forward*, you will turn
 Toward your foe, and that way your march
 take.
105. If skirmishers be marching by the flank,
 And change of direction must be done,
 Command will be, *by file*, the *right* or *left*,
 And to a right or left file you will come.

THE FIRINGS.

106. Skirmishers will fire, either
 Marching or when at a halt.
107. Firing *halting*, will be the first,
 Doing it without a fault;
 Thus for coolness we'll get credit,
 And our prowess we'll exalt.

108. "*Commence—FIRING,*" are the first words;
 Intimation thus we get,
 That our firing may be wanted,
 Since we never 've fired yet;
 Mind directions now I give you,
 Not one syllable forget.

When command briskly repeated,
 Understood is 'long the line,
 The front rank will commence firing,
 Load, and ready get again.
 Rear rank coming to a ready,
 Wait to fire until 't is time.

Soon as the respective leaders
 Of the files that they are in,
 Their pieces again have loaded,
 Rear man's fire will then begin;
 When their firings done, they reload,
 Front rank then will fire again.

One man of each file must always
 Have his piece already charged,
 Thus you keep a constant popping,
 And the foe's dead list enlarge;
 Work as rapidly as you can,
 But don't both at once discharge.

109. Always calm, and always steady,
 Take your aim with greatest pains,
 Mark the distance between yourselves
 And the foe you entertain.
 If each shot don't bring a man down,
 You are very much to blame.

110. In the same place, while reloading,
 It is best you do not stand,
 Unless you have some protection,
 Like a tree, or bank of sand,
 Lest the foe your spot is marking,
 To send leaden reprimand.

TO FIRE MARCHING.

111. *Firing marching*, by the same words,
As from halt, you're told to do:
112. If command comes as advancing,
Front will halt, and fire low;
Then, in loading, his march resume,
Which, when done, rear rank fires too.

Then rear loads again, and front blazes,
Then front loads, and rear will fire;
Thus alternately continue
To advance, and to acquire
Speed in loadings and in firings,
As the foe you're getting nigher.

113. If line in retreat be marching,
And *commence firing*, is heard,
Front rank men t'ward enemy faces,
Fires his piece, and then, reload;
Loads, while he's moving to the rear—
Loading won't his march retard.

Rear rank man, keeps on retreating,
Halts, beyond his front ten pace;
When his front has pass'd and loaded,
T'ward the enemy he'll face,
Fire his piece, and then to reload,
He'll begin at once apace.

Still retreating, in place keeping,
Front, ten paces back of rear,
Turns and fires, and then reloading,
Never checks his right career.
Discipline like this, I'm thinking,
For recruits may be severe.

Thus, alternately, they'll keep up
 Firings, by the front and rear,
 Neither firing till his comrade
Loads, and *ready* shall appear;
 Fire and preserve your alignment—
 To that rule you will adhere.

114. If you're marching by the *right* flank,
 When word comes to *fire commence*,
 T'ward the enemy the front man
 Turns and fires, with confidence;
 While the rear rank, marching onward,
 Yields to front the preference.

Having fired, the front man, briskly,
 Rear rank man will get behind—
 Reload while he's marching onward;
 Rear rank now his turn will find;
 He'll repeat what front rank's just done—
 Having fired, get front behind.

When command comes to *cease firing*,
 Either man that's out of place
 Will, when he completes his loading,
 To his station, steps retrace;
 See that 'twixt him and his comrades
 There remains the proper space.

115. When you're marching by the *left* flank,
 And the firing must *commence*,
Rear rank will *begin* the firing—
 Thus he has the preference;
Rear commencing *first*, in left flank,
 Is the only difference.

116. Following rules will be observed,
 In cases where they apply:

117. Firing at a halt, or marching
 By the flank—if so you be—
 When you get command to *forward*,
 Men who've *loaded*, front will fly.

118. Firing at a *halt, advancing*,
Or *by flank*, at the command,
"In retreat—MARCH," ~~men~~ who've loaded,
Faced to the enemy will stand,
Fire, and then retreat while loading;
To their rank; they won't attend.
119. Firing at a *halt, advancing*,
Or *retreating*, at command,
By the flank—MARCH, men whose pieces
Loaded are, outside will stand,
Fire; then loading while they're marching,
Soon their place in line they'll find.
120. Skirmishers, to load while marching,
Must habituated be;
But they'll halt an instant, priming,
And for charging cartridge—three;
Long enough, to be quite certain
They are ready—do you see?
121. They must practised be in firing,
Any way they best can fire—
Kneeling, lying, sitting, standing—
Any way they can acquire—
On their backs, or on their bellies,
On their heads—for all I care.
122. When to fire they are commencing,
Men of *one* rank, at *one* time
Must *not* fire; they must take care that
Fire is scattered 'long the line,
And until the man in same *file's*
Loaded, to fire they'll decline.
123. Officers will take care ever,
When they're marching in retreat,
Every advantage to seize on,
For the enemy's defeat;
At ~~each~~ place where they'll find cover,
Fire, the foe t' intimidate.

124. At the signal to *cease firing*,
Men who are not loaded, load;
If they're ~~m~~arching, keep on marching,
But their files form in this mode:
The man of each file happening front,
Waits till rear, abreast has strode.
125. When you're firing as advancing,
And to *halt* you get command,
On the front men line will re-form,
Fire away, as thus they stand;
When the *halt* comes, in retreating,
On the rear you'll form your band.
126. Officers, to battle, never
Take rifle, nor fowling piece;
But, to watch o'er each manœuvre
Of their line, they will not cease;
Take advantage of all cover,
Their men's safety to increase;

See their skirmishers don't wander,
And their persons thus expose;
Lives of their men they won't squander,
But will keep at bay their foes;
Do the best of their endeavor,
With success to skirmish close.

TO FORM COLUMN.

127. A company, as skirmishers deployed,
Is rallied, better to the foe oppose.
In rallies, *bayonets fixed* will be employed;
When *rally's* ordered, bayonets so dispose.
128. Here, several ways of rallying are shown;
Which shall be used, depends on circumstance.
129. If scattered horsemen are against you thrown,
And to the charge should gallantly advance,
-

The Captain will command, "*Rally by four*,"
 The line will *halt*, if marching, and the men
 That make each group, at once their groups re-
 store,
 Form for defence as quickly as they can.

The *front* rank man of *even*-numbered file,
Guard-against-cavalry position 'll take;
Odd-numbered man, of the *rear* rank, meanwhile
 Takes the same *guard*, and these stand back
 to back.

The *front* rank man, *odd* file, and *rear* rank man
 Of *even*-numbered file, will do the same,
 Between the men that first the move began—
 Facing to right and left they will remain.

The *right* feet of the four together brought,
 Forming a square, a mutual brace complete;
 Now you may fire, if you can make a shot
 Tell on the foe—but do not move the feet.

180. The Captain's little squad now comes in play;
 They'll rally 'round him, making thus a square;
 The chiefs of sections will have no delay
 Forming their guards the same, for the affair.

181. If, to the Captain, these squares seem too weak,
 182. "*Rally by sections*" is the next endeavor;
 The centre group of sections chiefs then seek,
 Unless some other group has better cover.

On this group now the skirmishers will run,
 The men that make the group will form a
 square;
 Their pieces elevate, as this is done,
 That all may see that the Lieutenant's there.

The places 'twixt these four men will be filled
By other skirmishers, as they arrive;
To firmly brace himself, each man is drilled;
To hold his stand, he 'll readily contrive.

Movement concluded, the two ranks outside
Fire, as occasion offers for a shot;
And, at charge bayonet they will abide,
Whenever firing will avail them nought.

133. The Captain, with his guard, moves rapidly
Where'er his presence most essential 'll seem;
134. The officers and sergeants steadily
Direct the movement, with *sang froid* supreme.

Some pieces, in each sub-division, will
At all times loaded be; and never fire
To throw away a shot; don't blaze until
You're certain of your mark as you desire.

135. If the reserve is threatened, it will form
A circle 'round its chief, to charge withstand;
To movements of the line it will conform,
Nor lose its distance, without a command.

136. If the commander of many platoons,
Should judge the section rally is too weak,
That sections can't withstand the charge alone,
And other mode of rally he must seek—

137. "*Rally by platoons*," he 'll command his men;
The principles and means for which, are those
Of section rally, that just now we've seen,
And 'round their chiefs, in circles, platoons
close.

138. "*Rally on the reserve*," perhaps he 'll say,

139. The chief of reserve then commences square;
Half sections on the flanks, command obey,
Making right angles with the line to rear.

The Captain, with his guard, to the reserve,
Will move as rapidly as he knows how ;
That movement 's rightly made, he will observe,
And men to *ready*, will be ordered now.

140. The skirmishers of each section, will run,
And form in groups upon their inside man,
These groups toward the centre one will turn,
And form the sections, quickly as they can.

Toward reserve, they're moving with all speed,
But proper order all the time maintain,
As toward reserve they steadily proceed,
Unmask it to the right and left again.

As skirmishers arrive, they will complete
The square, that the reserve has but begun,
Close in upon the latter, as they meet,
Without regard to places in the line.

Without command, they'll to a *ready* come,
And fire upon the enemy commence ;
This, by reserve, also, has to be done,
Soon as unmasking gives them a fair chance.

141. If any section is severely pressed
By cavalry, while marching in retreat,
In circle 'round their chief, they'll be amassed,
And, thus prepared, the enemy they'll meet.
- Soon as the danger 's passed—if it should be
Again in section—they'll at once re-form,
Resume the march t'ward reserve rapidly,
And to the square, in time, I trust they'll
come.

142. To form a square when closely pressed by horse,
Requires both coolness and activity ;
A flurry only brings from bad to worse,
And "cutting up" ensues, most certainly.

143. Each instant of respite the Captain 'll get,
 By him must be most profitably used,
 To form his square—or, what is better yet—
 (Well, to learn that, the next verse you'll pe-
 ruse.)

When his assailants look to him too strong,
 To combat with the force he's on the ground,
 And he feels certain it won't take too long
 For him to reach his regiment, beyond,

- He 'll break his square to column by platoon,
 144. At half distance; "*Form column—MARCH,*"
 command,
 To *centre* dress, each platoon then will come,
 Those facing rearward, right about will stand.

Upon the right and left of their platoons,
 The guides at once will their own stations take;
 Those of the second platoon, will alone
 The proper semi-distance regulate.

145. Now, everything prepared, if in retreat
 He deems it wise his column to command,
 "*In retreat—MARCH,*" the order is, complete,
 And to the rear they'll face, you may depend.

bb

Soon as the column 's started, he will state,
 "*Guide right,*" (or "*left,*") just as the case
 may be;
 Direction of the march he 'll indicate
 To leading guide—then all's done properly.

148. But—hi! Look out!—an error he has made—
 Again he's threatened by the cavalry—
 "*Form square,*" and "*MARCH,*" most likely will
 be said,
 And well 't will be to do it rapidly.

149. The column halts—the first platoon will face
 Briskly about, the enemy to dare,
 Outer half sections of each platoon place
 Themselves to rear—and thus they form the
 square.
150. If now he wants the column to advance,
 And go to work as skirmishers once more,
151. Or, for aught else, "*Form column—MARCH*," at
 once
 Will be command—you'll see, 144.
152. The column being formed, the Captain gives
 Command to "*Forward—MARCH*"—guide left
 or right—
 At which (of course) the column forward moves,
 T'ward side of guide their elbows they unite.
154. If wishing to gain ground, to left or right,
 By rapid wheels 't is done, upon the side
 The guide's *not* on; to do which thing aright,
 If necessary, he can change the guide.
155. If in column, by platoon, company
 Half distance—right in front—we will suppose,
 As skirmishers, first platoon we'd deploy,
 The way 't is done, we some ways back dis-
 close.
- But if the *second* platoon is the one,
 That on the centre file we would deploy,
 Soon as 't is time the movement was begun,
 Here are the terms of command we employ:
156. "*Second platoon as skirmishers*," and then,
 "*On centre file, take intervals*," and "*MARCH*."
 At first command, the chief of first platoon
 Tells them that, this time, they're left in the
 lurch.

The second platoon chiefs, will place themselves
Before the centre of their sections, then
Fifth Sergeant, as the centre guide excels,
And takes his place one pace in front of line.

157. Chief of *right* section says, "*Section, right face,*"
To a *left face* the *left* section will come;

158. At *march*, both sections rapidly will trace -
Their steps briskly, right and left direction.

158. The first platoon, by this march, is unmasked;
Which done, by left and right flank readily,
With first platoon, sections come up abreast,
And then deploy, to skirmish, principally.

159. If, by flank, deployment's to be made,
Second platoon gets front in the same way;
Some steps beyond alignment of the first
It halts, command to deploy to obey.

160. When one or more platoons may be thrown out
As skirmishers, to keep the foe at bay,
And Captain wishes them to turn about,
For safety on *battalion* to *rally*,

161. "*Rally on the battalion,*" he will ask;
At which the skirmishers, and their reserve,
Battalion's front will rapidly unmask,
And t'ward its nearest flank their way will
carve.

162. Soon as they've passed beyond file-closer's line,
The men will take the quick step, and the chiefs
Their sub-divisions will at once re-form
Behind the wing, where rally'd get relief.

There they'll remain, until they get command
From the battalion's Colonel to move on;
On either flank, perhaps, he'll bid them stand;
Perhaps, in other places, have them form.

163. If many platoons should united be,
Behind some shelter, or battalion's wing,
In column close, they'll always form array,
Or column at half distance do the thing.
164. When a battalion that is cover-ed
By company of skirmishers, form square,
The covering company to *its* rear is led.
The chiefs of sections will direct it there.
- The angles of the square, to take them in, \
Will kindly open—like gigantic jaws;
The skirmishers, when swallow-ed, will form
In column, *rear first front*, without a pause.
165. If circumstance the angles should prevent
From opening, the wanderers to take in,
Upon the ground, at feet of the front rank,
They'll kneel, arranging bayonets threat'ning.
- About the angles crevices they'll find,
Where they may do good service in defence;
In short, the man will have to be stone blind,
Who fails to make himself of consequence.
166. If the battalion in column is formed,
And ready at once to form in a square,
In rear of centre of division third,
The skirmishers will form in platoon, there.
- When "*Form square—MARCH*," is heard, they
forward move,
And to perform their part at once prepare;
Thus, shortly, their position they will have—
Since they'll close up to where the buglers are.
167. When skirmishers are rallied by platoon
Or section, back of wings of the main line,
In order that again to front they'll come,
They'll march t'ward interval by *flank*—quick
time.

168. When platoons, or their parts, within a square,
Are to be sent out, skirmishers to act,
'T is by the flank that they'll get out—from there,
Thrown forward (see 157, back).

The square unmasked, at once they'll be de-
ployed;
Part on the right and part on the left file;
Foe driven off—quiet at length enjoyed—
To

THE ASSEMBLY,

we will go awhile.

169. A company will be assembled, when
No danger of disturbance there exists;
This, generally, will be done in quick time,
170. And, in the following words, command con-
sists :

171. "*Assemble on the reserve.*" When 't is said,
In groups of fours the skirmishers will come;
The front follow, the rear men go ahead,
And all t'ward the reserve, in quick time,
come.

Each man, in ranks, will take his proper place;
The whole being formed, they will at once re-
joice
Battalion—marching toward it apace,
Their proper place in line to now regain.

172. On *centre*, on the *right*, or on the *left*,
Marching or halt, assembly may be done.
173. If 't is the first that's wished, with this com-
mand—
"*Assemble on the centre*"—'t is begun.
-

174. At which command, the centre guide will st
 Directly for the point the Captain's shown
 The front rank man, of the directing file,
 Follows the guide, while the rear rank
 come—

Cover his men; the other comrades, two,
 That make group—those on their left likew
 Diagonally march, the thing to do,
 Accelerating gait with enterprise,

Reform their group, as drawing near and ne
 To the directing file they're marching on;
 The right section, in manner similar,
 Unite in groups, then to the guides will co

175. Assemblies, on the *left* or the *right* file,
 By principles the same, they'll execute;
 176. And principles the same will make the rule
 When they'd assemble *marching in retrea*

177. When at a *halt* assembly 's to be made,
 The orders for the move are just the same
 By marching by the flank, command 's obey
 And while they're marching, group they
 reform.

As they to proper place in line arrive,
 Their arms they'll bring, left shoulder, to
 port;
 Throughout the skirmish, all will constant sta
 To be complete in every move here taught

TO DEPLOY A BATTALION AS SKIRMISHERS, AND TO
RALLY THIS BATTALION.

78. Battalion in line,
Is standing this time,
And commander, on *sixth* company,
May wish to deploy;
He will signify
His intentions to officers three.
Lieutenant Colonel,
At first he will tell
The *direction* that he'd give the line,
Where he thinks it best
Right of sixth to rest,
With other things that he may design.
The reserve will be,
Of companies three,
To commander of which he will tell,
Where he'll have it placed,
Which way it shall face,
And with what line be parallel.
79. Lieutenant Colonel,
Thus knowing full well,
Exactly what is now to be done,
In *front* of the *right*
Sixth company gets,
To its *left* the Adjutant will come.
30. The Colonel commands,
As there each one stands,
"*First platoon, as skirmishers,*" and then,
"*On right of the sixth*
Company," and next,
"*Take intervals—MARCH,*" he'll be adding.

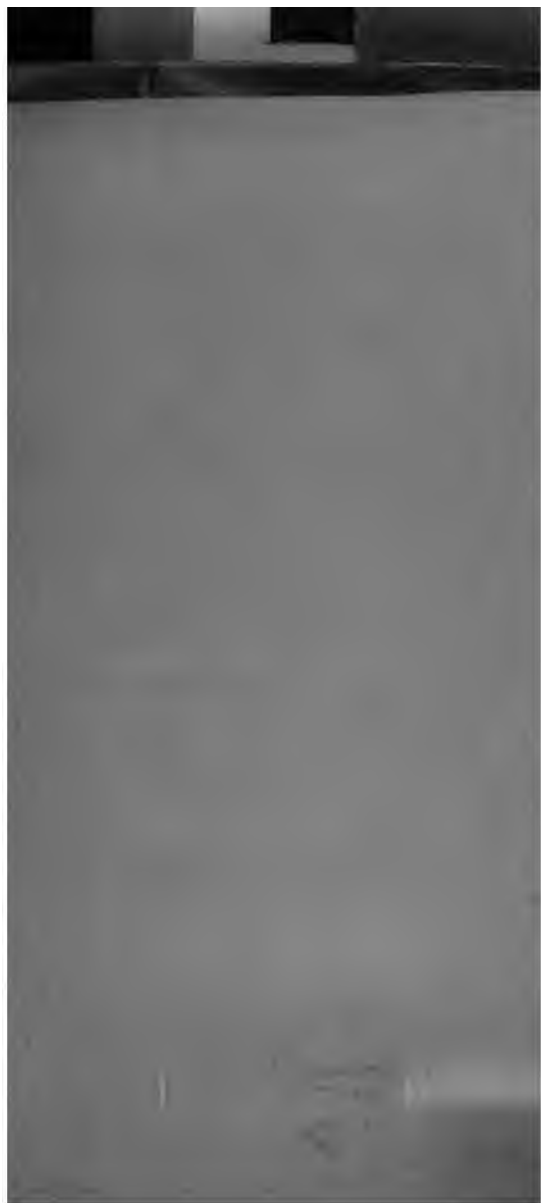
181. At second command,
 The captains who stand
In command of the *sixth* and the *fifth*,
 To deploy will prepare,
 Their first platoons, where
Lieutenant Colonel sends them adrift.
182. Fourth comp'ny will face
 To right, in its place,
While comp'nies the seventh and eighth,
 A left face will make,
 Their positions to take,
Thus to skirmishing go about straight.
183. When last word is said,
 The movement is made ;
Platoons, of 5th and 6th will begin,
 Forward ; the right guide
 Of 6th will decide
Direction—L. C. having told him.
184. The company faced
 To the right, will pace
Straight forward, to an interval make
 (Counting from the left
 Of company fifth)
Of one hundred paces—no mistake.
 As skirmishers, now,
 At once, *fourth* will go—
Its *first* platoon, I meant then to state—
 Deploy on left file;
 And, in the meanwhile,
The companies the *seventh* and the *eighth*,
 By left flank will do
 What fourth's going through,
The intervals taken they will count
 From the right file, quite,
 Of Comp'ny on their right
In the line—steps one hundred 'n amount.
-

- First platoons deploy
On the right file. Apply
The rules that back we have been over;
185. To complete design,
Each company align
With those that deployed they discover.
- Now, to follow the deployment,
186. Adjutant and L. C. come;
This they do, to make it certain
That the movement's rightly done.
Then they back to Colonel come.
187. { The *reserves* of comp'ny will then,
Form-ed be in echelon;
188.* { Major in command, he'll march them
Where he's told to, every one;
He'll know how the thing is done.
189. Colonel, with a keen observance
The while, movement will inspect;
When it's finished, take his station
Where best he'll his men direct,
Every error to detect.
190. If it is a flank deployment,
That the Colonel would have done,
Fifth and sixth comp'nies in moving,
To the front ten paces come;
That's the way the move's begun.
- Other comp'nies march'd by the flank,
Look to fifth and sixth, for guide,
When the interval's established,
To the line they've made, will strike;
There they'll be at once deployed.

* Multum in parvo.

191. If battalion is in column,
And deployment is th' intent,
Principles, and commands, will then
Be the same, in that event,
As the last I did present.
197. When battalion 's to be *rallied*,
Bugle-sound will indicate
That such movement is suggested;
Reserves, then, such places take,
As the movement will protect.
- Into details of this movement,
I have not the space to go,
All I'll write, is *done* this moment,
Since the book I've gone quite through.
Now and then, I have omitted
Parts that every soldier 'll know,
But, until 187,
Naught essential I forego.
Here I beg to make my bow.

THE END.



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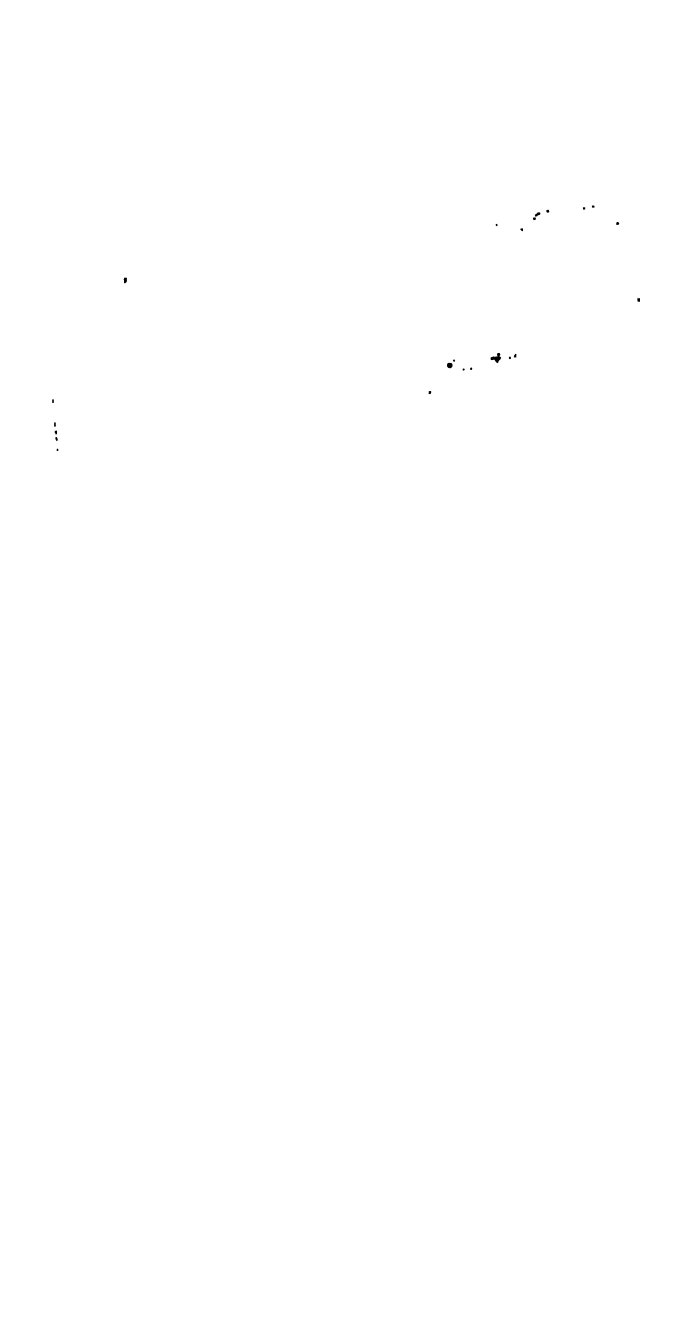
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